

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE.

INDUSTRIAL NURSES.

Special Course of Instruction.

The rapid expansion of the National effort has greatly enhanced the importance of the work of nurses in factories and it is desired to increase the number of trained nurses with special qualifications for posts as industrial nurses.

The work which nurses are required to do in factories differs in many respects from what they are required to do in hospitals and private practice, and it is desirable that nurses intending to take employment in factories should receive some special training for the work they are to undertake.

The course of training arranged by the Royal College of Nursing and previously taken by nurses intending to enter industry extended over six and twelve months, but this was reduced to three months at the outbreak of war.

To meet the present need, a short intensive course of instruction has been arranged in collaboration with the Royal College of Nursing and with various employers having well established ambulance and first aid arrangements in their factories.

This leaflet relates to the procedure and facilities afforded in the case of this special intensive course of instruction.

Qualification.

The course will be open to women who have taken up nursing as a profession, have received the usual professional training and are either registered or eligible for registration on the General Part of the Register. It is essential that candidates should possess qualities which will enable them to gain readily the confidence both of employers and of work-people. Candidates under the age of 25 years would not normally be regarded as suitable and they should of course be physically fit to undertake the work.

Application by and Selection of Candidates.

Selection of candidates to undergo the course of instruction will be carried out by a Selection Board appointed by the Minister of Labour and National Service.

Applications must be made on a form which can be obtained from the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Factory and Welfare Department, Cleland House, Page Street, London, S.W.1, or from the Royal College of Nursing, Henrietta Place, Cavendish Square, London, W.1. Completed forms must be returned to the Ministry of Labour and National Service at the address given above.

No candidate will be selected by the Board for admission to the course except after a personal interview before the Board.

Course of Instruction.

The course will last for approximately one month, part of which will be spent by students in factories selected under arrangements made by the Ministry in conjunction with the Royal College of Nursing, where they will receive practical training in the work.

Attendance at the course of instruction will not entitle a student to any certificate of proficiency.

Financial Arrangements.

In the case of candidates selected by the Board under the scheme, the fees for the course will be paid by the Ministry on behalf of the student. Such candidates would also be paid an allowance on the following scales:—

1. While attending at the instructional centre if within daily travelling distance of student's home, 26s. per week. Reasonable daily travelling expenses to and from the centre may be allowed when it is necessary to travel more than two miles each way.

2. While attending at the centre where the student has to live away from home, 36s. per week.

No special allowance will be made in respect of the cost (if any) incurred by the student in obtaining books required for the course.

Third class railway fares will be refunded to candidates summoned to attend for interview by the Selection Board.

Travelling expenses, third class, may be paid to students from home to the place of instruction and, at the end of the course, to the place of employment or home. Travelling expenses to the place where the practical instruction is given may also be paid.

General.

Persons accepted for instruction will be expected to complete the course and those who for any reason fail to do so may be required to refund the expenses incurred on their behalf.

Industrial nurses are not appointed by the Ministry of Labour and National Service and acceptance for the course does not imply any guarantee of employment.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS.

A number of Metropolitan Borough Councils have received the Minister of Health's consent under section 227 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, or the corresponding earlier enactment to the provision of facilities for immunisation against Diphtheria; but the Minister believes that the proportion of London children hitherto immunised is small. He is advised that at the present time the risks of transmission of Diphtheria have unavoidably been increased by the use of public air-raid shelters, and the congested conditions under which many of the population of the Metropolis sleep and travel, and that a special effort ought to be made by every Metropolitan Borough Council to secure the immunisation of as many as possible of the children remaining in London. Extensive immunisation should impose an effective check against the spread of the disease, and, in addition to the direct advantage which would result therefrom, this should lead to a reduction in the demands on hospital accommodation and resources which may well be needed for other purposes. While these conditions exist the Minister will be prepared to reimburse the cost of the material used in the immunisation. So long as this material is supplied free of charge by the London County Council the reimbursement will be made to that Council.

In those Metropolitan areas in which such consent has not already been given the Minister consents to the provision by the Council of facilities for immunisation against Diphtheria on the understanding that the arrangements made will be under the general supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. They should review, in consultation, so far as may be appropriate, with the London County Council as local education authority, the question of the best means for persuading parents and guardians of the importance of having their children immunised, both for the protection afforded to the particular child, and in the public interest in order to prevent the spread of infection amongst the child population generally.

The immunisation of as many children of pre-school age as possible, as well as of children of school age, is essential; and the measures considered would no doubt include, *inter alia*, intensive dissemination of advice and instruction by health visitors and maternity and child welfare workers as well as through the school medical service. The regular use of public air-raid shelters by many families may give an opportunity for advice to be given orally by doctors, nurses, and other workers at the shelters and by leaflet or poster.

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