

THE CIVIL NURSING RESERVE.

The Civil Nursing Reserve Advisory Council has recommended to the Minister of Health that Refresher Courses should be provided for members of the Civil Nursing Reserve who are not in active employment as members. The Minister, in a circular endorses the view of the Advisory Council that such Courses should be provided to help both in maintaining the continued efficiency of members while they are standing by, in increasing their sense of membership of a corporate body forming an important part of the Civil Defence Services, and Local Emergency Organisations are advised to forward to the Senior Regional Officer their proposals for providing Refresher Courses.

It has already been suggested that it was desirable that in each area an Organiser should be appointed whose special function it would be to maintain and stimulate the interest and efficiency of members of the Reserve.

In many areas, such an Organiser has been appointed, but not in all, and where no such appointment has been made, renewed consideration should now be given to the matter. It should often be possible for one or more Local Emergency Organisations in adjoining areas to share the services of such an officer. The appointments should in general be honorary, though exceptional cases where this is impracticable may be referred to the Senior Regional Officer for special consideration.

The exact scope of the Organiser's duties and responsibilities in relation to the Organisation and its other officers will probably vary from place to place, but she should in general work closely in conjunction with the Matron or trained nurse who is principally concerned with interviewing trained and assistant nurse applicants for membership of the Reserve, and be responsible with her to the Medical Officer of Health for arranging not only the Refresher Courses but also social and recreational activities. They should, moreover, be in close touch with the Regional Nursing Officer, in order to ensure that mobile members who are not employed are fully covered by these arrangements. (It may be noted here, that the Regional Nursing Officers are already taking steps to provide a small number of trained nurses in each Region with additional theatre experience, so as to increase the number of experienced theatre sisters available.)

WARNING AGAINST THE USE OF TANNIC ACID FOR BURNS.

Successful treatment by a new method of burns suffered by R.A.F. men has led to a Ministry of Health warning to all first-aid officers, Red Cross workers and hospitals against the use of tannic acid.

Tannic acid is no longer used by the R.A.F. or the Navy. Instead, they use a jelly composed of gentian violet and merthiolate as a first-aid application for burns.

But the general public, buyers of thousands of home first-aid kits since the war, have not yet been told of the dangers of tannic acid treatment. The Ministry of Health circular recommends that it should not be used for second and third degree burns. Saline presses are advised.

The *Lancet* warns against the "disasters" which may be caused by tannic acid, and adds:—

"The immediate results of treatment (with tannic acid) may be good in some ways; the coagulum protects an injured area, reduces exudation and prevents sepsis, but it also produces gross crippling of the hands, and by immobilising or deforming the eyelids endangers the eyes."

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

We report with deep regret that Charing Cross Hospital has suffered some damage from the ruthless bombing which has injured so many of these homes of healing, and our members will wish, we feel sure, to offer their sympathy to Miss M. S. Cochrane, the Matron, our Vice-President, and the nursing staff, who for weeks have stood up to the Battle of London.

After the New Year it may be hoped that meetings of the Council can be held, but opinion is almost unanimous that difficulties of travel and danger to life in London make it inadvisable to gather together under present conditions, and we learn from members that they feel compelled to devote all the time possible to duty. This can well be understood.

The College is open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., when "bombs" permit, and we have been very busy lately. The whole house has been having a "spring cleaning," a little out of season, all paint washed down.

The history room took a long time because every picture has been taken down and cleaned and the walls washed. All looks very spruce.

THE STORY OF THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING.

As we go to press we have received a copy of *The Story of the American Journal of Nursing*, with the compliments of the *American Journal of Nursing*, for our library. From a peep into its pages we realise its triumph, organised as it is on sound professional principles. We shall have great pleasure in reviewing it in our next issue.

The preface informs us:—

"This history of the *American Journal of Nursing* is dedicated to the courageous and far-seeing pioneers who laid the substantial foundation of professional journalism for nurses in the United States. May all nurses who read be heartened by the story of difficulties surmounted, and may those who study the history of nursing be aided in interpreting the present in the light of the past, and in pointing the way to the future."

MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

The Retirement of Sir Arthur MacNalty.

Sir Arthur MacNalty, K.C.B., Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health and of the Board of Education, is retiring on reaching the age limit. The Minister of Health and the President of the Board of Education have respectively appointed Sir Wilson Jameson, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., to be Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry and the Board. Sir Wilson Jameson is relinquishing the post of Medical Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, from which in the circumstances the Secretary of State did not feel that he could refuse to release him. He is also relinquishing the post of Dean of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Professor of Public Health of the University of London.

The retirement from his responsible office by Sir Arthur MacNalty will be sincerely regretted by those nurses who have come into touch with him in connection with their work, as he was invariably courteous and kind in his association with members of the Nursing Profession.

"It is an ancient saying that labour is the price which the gods have set upon everything valuable."—*Reynolds*.

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