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EDITORIAL.

THE FLOOD-GATES ARE OPEN.

We are not surprised to learn that there is a serious shortage of Sister Tutors. This was to be anticipated, as soon as the one Portal to the Register was removed by the General Nursing Council—acting on the fatal policy initiated by the *Lancet* Commission and promoted by the lay and medical members of the Council—supported unfortunately by invertebrate Registered Nurse representatives, who apparently could not appreciate, or perhaps did not care, that much of the future teaching of elementary anatomy, physiology and hygiene would be monopolised by lay teachers and not allocated to registered Sister Tutors and Sisters.

This disintegration has already begun, in preparation for the Preliminary Examination, and we have no doubt that lay teachers will absorb more and more of the duties and fees of professional Sister Tutors as time goes on. It is not therefore surprising that intelligent Registered Nurses are refusing to turn down a blind-alley.

We note that the Royal College of Nursing is establishing a Special Training Course for Tutors, to try to encourage a larger supply; but as candidates must pay their own substantial fees of 42 guineas, it remains to be seen if intelligent Nurses will rise to the occasion unless they have a guarantee of professional employment and status in connection with the preparation of pupils for examination, free from the competition of untrained lay teachers in the future.

This guarantee is difficult to secure, as the General Nursing Council has opened the flood-gates to lay competition in the preparation of pupils for the Preliminary Examination.

Moreover, after the war thousands of "Auxiliaries" and "Assistant Nurses" will flood nursing ranks, and it is difficult to see how a reversion to the status "Gamp" is to be prevented. We have few strong leaders in the Nursing Profession to-day, and the majority of the rank and file are apparently feeble and apathetic in their own defence. When we remember the pioneers of the last century, the spirits of steel and devotion to professional ideals with which thousands of nurses of all ranks were inspired, one wonders what demoniacal microbe has poisoned the blood-stream of human energy and caused the change.

Anyway, an antidote to apathy must be applied—or we are undone.

A HANDY WAR-TIME GUIDE.

This Guide, by S. Evelyn Thomas, Esq., Ph.D., B.Com.(Lond.), F.C.I.S., is designed for the woman who sits at home and the man in the street, upon whom a great responsibility will be thrown should air attacks materialise. The author believes that the burden can be substantially lightened if the ordinary people, and particularly the women whose menfolk have been called to service in the armed forces, are given a clear and concise account of the dangers they may expect, of the steps they can take beforehand to meet them, and of the action they should take in actual emergency.

A chapter deals with the chief danger resulting from air attacks involving the use of (1) high-explosive bombs, (2) incendiary (fire) bombs, (3) poison gases, (4) machine guns; helpful hints are given as to how to act promptly and sensibly. Services available for protection and assistance are carefully explained, and a chapter is devoted to the use, care, and wear of the gas mask.

What to do about animals also finds a place in this Guide. The National A.R.P. Animals Committee has organised facilities throughout the country to deal with the treatment of animals in an emergency.

The storage and protection of food is important, and people living in vulnerable areas must not take any risks with their food. They are advised to keep as much as possible in airtight wrappers or in tin containers, sealed with adhesive tape, or in airtight bottles or closed jugs. If raids occur, touch no water that does not come direct from the tap or out of an airtight bottle.

Clear advice is given how to act in an air raid, whether caught out-of-doors or at home. If at home, with children, keep the wireless or gramophone on, and see that they have a game, books, or toys to occupy their minds.

Pages of pictures are inserted in this Guide, clarifying advice given in all kinds of emergency.

A chapter is given upon how to cope with incendiary bombs and fire; and another one on first-aid in air raids, embracing bandages and slings, to stop bleeding from a wound, applying a tourniquet, treatment of wounds, fractures, dislocations and sprains, burns and scalds, artificial respiration, electric shocks, and first aid for gas casualties.

The author has not overlooked war-time regulations, and every phase of the human existence is clearly dealt with; he also explains how to economise in war time and make the most of food; what to do and what not to do in the black-out; a list of names and addresses

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