

## NURSING RECRUITMENT AS A HOSPITAL SERVICE.

The problem of ensuring an adequate supply of suitable candidates for training and qualification as State Registered Nurses was one of the main concerns of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services, which, under Lord Athlone's chairmanship, produced its interim report last year.

The Committee quoted the recommendations of the Voluntary Hospitals Committee for the County of London, that a central bureau should be established in London, to act as a public relations department for nursing in the voluntary hospitals, and to regularise the system of recruitment to the profession. Such a bureau would maintain effective contact between the hospitals and the education authorities and girls' schools, would develop a system whereby girls on leaving school could be "registered," and kept in touch with the hospitals until they are old enough to begin training, and would present a truer picture of the conditions and prospects offered by a nursing career than has been available in the past.

King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, in pursuance of its policy of extending its services to hospitals beyond the purely financial sphere, undertook to inaugurate and finance the scheme, and arrangements were made to open the Nursing Recruitment Centre last September. The war which delayed the opening of the new Recruitment Centre has now made more than ever apparent the need for maintaining a fully qualified and sufficiently numerous nursing personnel as an essential part of the health service of the nation, and the Recruitment Centre has now been opened at 21, Cavendish Square, W.1.

The Nursing Recruitment Centre is staffed by State Registered Nurses, who are prepared to give information on all branches of nurse training and individual guidance as to entering upon a nursing career. The Centre will keep in close touch with the training schools, will collect and distribute information as to the conditions of entry to each, and also as to the various pre-nursing courses now being established as means of "bridging the gap" between the age of leaving school and that of entering hospital. It will also supply speakers who will give their services in schools and other educational centres, and will publish leaflets and articles on nursing as a career.

Further information may be obtained from the Organising Secretary, The Nursing Recruitment Centre, 21, Cavendish Square, W.1.

King Edward's Hospital for London is to be congratulated upon this new departure, which should prove of great value; the more the Fund realises its responsibility for financing highly qualified nursing the better, and in its new scheme a wide field of usefulness is apparent.

The Fund is also to be congratulated upon the appointment of Miss Muriel E. Edwards, S.R.N., as Organising Secretary. No better choice could have been made.

### KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR LONDON.

At a special meeting of the Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, it has been decided that the annual distribution for 1939 should be made up to the usual total of £300,000. Part of this distribution had been postponed until more was known of the effects of the war on the finance of each hospital. Since then the hospitals have been able to resume much of their ordinary work for both in-patients and out-patients. For this they are dependent on the normal sources of voluntary hospital income. They, therefore, need the help of the supplementary grants from the King's Fund, and also increased subscriptions and donations from the public.

It has also been decided to extend the area of the King's Fund from 11 miles round St. Paul's to the Metropolitan Police District, as was contemplated in the Act of Incorporation passed in 1907. Most of the hospitals in Greater London will thus come within the range of the Fund's grants and of its influence in promoting efficiency and economy.

## THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

The Convention Number of the *American Journal of Nursing*, April, 1940, contains an interesting opening article by Miss Calista Banwarth, R.N., Acting Secretary, International Council of Nurses, headed "The I.C.N. Comes to the States."

"Historically," she writes, "the Council is relatively young. The international federation was proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick at the annual London Conference of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. In the forty years since, it has done magnificent work. Its objectives, set down at its inception, have been self-government of nurses in their own associations; the raising of standards of education, professional ethics, and public usefulness of their members; the full development of the human being and citizen in every nurse; the provision for means of communication between nurses of different nationalities, thus providing opportunities to confer and exchange international hospitality. . . ."

"The London office was thus the clearing house for nursing information from all over the world. The *International Nursing Review* carried original and summarised articles in three languages, making much of this material generally available, while specific references for these and graduate research could readily be obtained from Council Archives. Exchange students and visitors found the Council a great assistance in serving as go-between for nursing associations in different nations. Briefly, these are the things the organization aid, while the offices fully staffed were maintained in Geneva, and later in London. These are the things the temporary headquarters would like to do here in America, but war has curtailed much of the Council work."

Miss Banwarth tells of war conditions in England before the removal of archives and personnel to U.S.A. She writes: "In spite of the additional work and anxiety encountered in time of hostilities, these member nations are firmly determined to keep nursing associations intact. During this critical period they are striving to keep alive their international connections through the Council. Correspondence from twenty-four nations lends encouragement to the hope that the now postponed 1941 Congress will be held in the near future. . . ."

"Every member of the American Nurses' Association may be proud to realise that American nurses, through the functioning of our temporary headquarters, are maintaining one of the few agencies that can promote international good will, even in war time. Suffering is a common denominator on either side of a battle line, for soldier and civilian, for belligerent and neutral. Our Council has done much in the forty years of its life to demonstrate the community of interest we hold with our sisters the world over. The problems of nursing are common to all nations. We can understand, though militarists and diplomats may not. Nurses must be idealists, but they must be practical ones. The office of the International Council of Nurses has been evacuated from the war zone. It is a refuge in a neutral country. But it is not 'foreign.' . . . We shall need strength and encouragement to carry on the tasks of the future, to rebuild when peace is once more with us."

Our international motto has ever been, "There is no nationality in Nursing."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)