

we are still just V.A.D.s at the end of it.—V.A.D.s who know nothing and are untrained! Apart from that, it seems to me it would give the senior sisters some interest if they were in a position to train us and give us lectures, and there is every scope and opportunity for practical and theoretical examinations. Nurses will surely be needed after the war.

The usual retort to all this is "Well, why don't you resign and go to a training school or why didn't you do so at the beginning?" To which I answer we have spent a lot of money on our uniform and now have it complete, and we joined up to do a job of work in this war and look after the Fighting Services, and most of us don't want to go back to civilian life till the war is over.

This letter is very badly expressed because I have no time to think it all out and write it first in rough, and it is written on the spur of the moment. I have discussed the matter so often with my friends here and I know I am voicing the opinion of a lot of V.A.D.s here, and the same must apply to others in other hospitals—and believe me this war has discovered a lot of people who are obviously born nurses who love their work. It seems hard that these years of hard work, patience and long hours should all count for nothing. I am appealing to you because I could think of no higher authority to whom to write, and I thought that a question as big as this is and of nationwide interest and importance, both during the war and after, might be given a little consideration and discussed with the powers that be.

We would be so very pleased if something could be done for us.

Yours sincerely,

DIANA M. THOMPSON, V.A.D.

UNDER A NEW NAME.

Some short talks of exceptional interest were given by four nurses at the annual meetings of the Nurses' Missionary League, held this year in Edinburgh. They spoke of the value of the meetings in hospital, and the influence on their own lives of the fellowship with other members. One of them told, too, of the frequent misunderstanding of the name of the League which kept nurses away from its meetings, and she, therefore, proposed the resolution to change the name to *Nurses Christian Movement*, which was carried unanimously. It was emphasised that there was no intention to become less missionary, but rather to bring a larger circle of nurses within the influence of Jesus Christ.

Miss Topping, in presenting the annual report, paid tribute to those nurses in the badly-raided areas who had carried on their meetings in spite of every difficulty. She spoke, too, of a new attitude towards religion that she was finding among nurses, a new eager desire to know more of the things of God.

The Right Rev. the Bishop of Edinburgh commended the change of name, as giving an opportunity to demonstrate that the word Christian meant missionary. The Christian religion, he said, was a giving religion, and the first duty of a Christian was to hand on to others what he had received from God.

The closing address of the day was given by the Rev. James Stewart, B.D., who gave four suggestions to those who find religion difficult: (1) Trust the evidence of the saints, the experts in spiritual life; (2) do not attach too much importance to emotions; (3) give God a chance by spending time with Him every day; (4) if there is something in your life forming a barrier between you and God, find out what it is and put it right.

THE INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS' MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the Infectious Hospitals' Matrons' Association was held, by the kind consent of the management, at the Isolation Hospital, Mays Lane, Barnet, on Saturday, June 28th, at 2 p.m.

On arrival the members were warmly welcomed by the Matron, Miss Beatrice West.

The President, Miss Mabel Wright, R.R.C., was in the chair. On opening the proceedings, Miss Wright expressed her pleasure, that owing to a short respite from her Army duties, she was able to be present; she felt that to meet so many of her colleagues was indeed heartening.

The Annual Report, which was presented by the Hon. Secretary, Miss B. West, was confirmed and showed that good work had been done during the past year.

New members were elected and the Hon. Officers were re-elected for the ensuing year. It was decided that the annual subscription of the Association should not be raised for the present.

The scale of salaries recommended by the Royal College of Nursing was discussed; and it was pointed out that the salaries recommended for Hospitals of less than 100 beds are comparatively inadequate, as in many of these institutions there is no resident Medical Officer and the Matron's responsibility is, therefore, considerably increased.

In this connection the scale of salaries drawn up by the Infectious Hospitals' Matrons' Association and the League of Fever Nurses, jointly, was referred to as a fairer scale in this particular.

The Hon. Treasurer, Miss A. Stewart Bryson, presented the balanced accounts for the past year, which showed a balance in hand of £15 3s. 8d.

PROPOSED ROLL OF ASSISTANT NURSES.

The Resolution proposed and carried by the Association of Hospital Matrons at its Spring General Meeting—

"That a Roll of Assistant Nurses be set up under the care of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales without delay," was considered.

The members expressed grave concern as to the inevitable result of such a betrayal of Registered Nurses and the sick if the Government grant legal status to unqualified women.

The Infectious Hospitals' Matrons' Association having previously protested against this movement, the meeting unanimously and strongly condemned the Resolution passed by "The Association of Hospital Matrons," and would do everything possible to oppose it.

The President proposed a warm vote of thanks to the Hon. Secretary, Miss West, for the work she had done during the past year on behalf of the Association and for the trouble she and her staff had taken in the delightful arrangements that had been made for everyone who had attended the meeting. This was carried with acclamation.

Miss McLoughlin expressed hearty thanks and appreciation, on behalf of the Association, to Miss Wright, R.R.C., for coming to preside in spite of her arduous duties. The meeting then terminated.

With much ingenuity, and considering war conditions, an excellent tea was provided in the Nurses' very pretty sitting-room, where the Chairman of the Hospital, Mr. R. B. Bruce, welcomed the members of the committee and members of the staff and visitors also joined the company. Two members of E. Barnet A.R.P. Stretcher Bearer Party (Violinist and Pianist) played popular music, which was greatly appreciated.

Councillor W. T. Beard delighted the company with a humorous recitation of "This is the Edifice Erected by John." Thus ended the very successful annual meeting of the Infectious Hospitals' Matrons' Association of 1941.

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