

SCOTTISH SECRETARY PROMISES ATTENTION TO NURSES' SALARIES.

Commenting, at the opening of the new Ayrshire Hospital, on nurses' salaries, Mr. Thomas Johnston, Scottish Secretary of State, said that it was more important at the moment that they should consider this and not take up their time considering improvements in nurses' homes. In war time the main essential was an increase in salary. They had set up a committee of inquiry, under Lord Craigmyle, whose great experience of this type of work and whose interest in hospitals was well known. This new hospital, said Mr. Johnston, marked their changing attitude to the treatment of curative diseases and dispensed with the old parochial system of hospitals, which nearly all lacked adequate modern appliances. The small local hospitals were a relic of the days of horse transport, while the new hospitals were the product of the age of the internal combustion engine.

The scandal of having thousands of patients on hospital waiting-lists must be stopped. He indicated that it was now possible through the development of the great auxiliary and emergency hospitals to see the possibility of a co-ordinated scheme linking the voluntary and municipal hospitals. He believed that at the end of the war the people of this country would have for the first time a service of adequately equipped and organised hospitals.

Scottish Committee Welcomed.

Strong approval of the plan to investigate the nursing wages position in Scotland, which has as its foundation the creation of a committee, under Lord Craigmyle, has been given recently by Scottish nursing and hospital spokesmen.

Miss A. M. Milligan, R.R.C., hon. treasurer of the Scottish Matrons' Association, expressed her complete sympathy with the movement and said that she welcomed the whole question of salaries being tackled. It was more than time that this should be done.

Mr. Henry Maw, secretary of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, said that the proposals were in conformity with the policy of the British Hospitals' Association. Everyone wished to see nurses happy and contented in their work, and they would welcome any impartial investigation into the position. With regard to the Infirmary, conditions were as good as they could possibly be. Each nurse had a separate room and the dining arrangements were excellent.

SALARIES AGREED FOR NURSES BY THE JOINT INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE.

Probationers	1st year ...	£ 36
	2nd year ...	40
	3rd year ...	45
	4th year ...	50
Fully qualified and acting as Staff Nurse	...	60
Staff Nurses	1st year ...	75
	2nd year ...	85
	3rd year ...	95
If under 100 beds, local authorities may pay	£5 per	annum less.
Ward Sisters (over 100 beds)	1st year ...	105
	2nd year ...	115
	3rd year ...	125
	4th year ...	135
Ward Sisters (under 100 beds)	1st year ...	95
	2nd year ...	105
	3rd year ...	115
	4th year ...	125

We have no data yet of the salaries of Matrons and Nurses working in an official capacity.

LEGACY TO THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

Under the will of the late Miss Mary Gladys Allbutt, S.R.N., the sum of £50, free of legacy duty, was left to the Royal British Nurses' Association. The kindness of Miss Allbutt will be especially appreciated by the Members of the Association at a time when war conditions involve more or less of a struggle for existence for most organisations. All the more will the legacy be appreciated because of the respect in which Miss Allbutt was held, because of her un-failing friendship to the Association while she lived, and because of the happy memories that remain of a more or less lengthy visit which she made to headquarters until her country home was ready after her retirement.

THE LEAGUE OF FEVER NURSES.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the League of Fever Nurses was held on Saturday, October 18th, at 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, at 2.30 p.m.

The President, Miss E. M. G. Barcham, was in the Chair. Miss J. Ruddy, Hon. Secretary, read the Minutes of the last meeting, and applications for membership were received and confirmed. Miss Ruddy was unanimously appointed to act as the League's representative on the Special Committee of the British College of Nurses for the Protection of the Legal Status of the Registered Nurse.

It was agreed that the proposal that the semi-trained nurse be recognised by the State should be opposed. Further, strong disapproval was expressed of the segregation of the chronic sick to be attended by semi-trained nurses. The meeting was unanimously of the opinion that the important branch of the nursing of infectious diseases should be included in General Training; the chronic sick would then secure the very necessary skilled care which it is their right to demand of the State.

The Balance Sheet for the year 1940-1941 was submitted by the Hon. Treasurer, Miss A. S. Bryson, which showed a balance of £4 8s. 5d. in the current account, and £107 12s. 7d. on deposit. The meeting then terminated.

ST. LUKE'S DAY CELEBRATIONS AT CROYDON GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The Festival of St. Luke was celebrated at Croydon General Hospital on Saturday, October 18th, with the usual services and staff reunion. Holy Communion was celebrated at 6.30 a.m. The Rt. Rev. W. L. Anderson, D.S.C., M.A., Bishop of Croydon, officiating.

Another service at 3.30 p.m. packed the little chapel to capacity, and the Bishop's devotional and helpful address was appreciated by all.

A beautiful chair was dedicated to the memory of Miss Mary Helen Whayman, pharmacist, who was killed by enemy action. A new Altar Frontal and curtains, gift of the Ladies' Committee, was also dedicated to the glory of God and the adornment of St. Luke's Chapel.

Many members of the Board of Management, Honorary Staff, Medical and Nursing Staffs, past and present, enjoyed a chat and tea in the Nurses' Home.

The figure of Miss Darling, who recently retired, was missed at the gathering, and regret was expressed that she was unable to travel from the North to be amongst her old friends. A wallet engraved with her initials and containing £20 was sent to her with every good wish from past and present members of the Nursing Staff.

LEGACIES FOR NURSES.

Miss Nelly Burt Woodard, of Wolverton Gardens, Ealing Common, left £6,050, and bequeathed £500 to Edith Mary Blenham, trained nurse.

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