

Emergency Patients.

It was reported that increasing advantage is being taken by the London County Council, as well as by others, of assistance in finding accommodation for suitable hospital patients, thus setting beds free for more urgent cases. The Association is at present arranging to take another large number of patients from various London County Council hospitals, and note, with pleasure, that the scheme has met with general approval, and that the patients are happy and comfortable in their new surroundings with sympathetic hostesses to look after them.

Employment Office.

It was with great reluctance that the Council of the Association found themselves forced to close down this department, and they look upon their experiment as suspended, rather than abandoned. During the year, 253 patients were assisted to suitable employment, and many grateful and enthusiastic letters have been received from employers as well as employees.

Legacy from the late President.

The Chairman reported that news had recently been received of a legacy of £5,000 bequeathed to the Association by the late Viscount Wakefield.

Addresses.

Miss E. D. Vickers, late Secretary, addressed the meeting, telling of the activities of the Association, and of the good work done for the convalescent mentally afflicted people.

The Rev. R. T. V. Scott, of St. Columba's, Pont Street, London, spoke from an outsider's point of view in great appreciation of the noble work being done by the Association.

The meeting closed, an invitation being issued for those present to take tea in an adjoining room.

APPOINTMENTS.**MATRONS.**

Alexandra Hospital, Swanley, Kent (Kent County Council).—Miss Amelia Taylor, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at King George's Sanatorium, Godalming, and at St. Mary's Hospital, Highgate. Miss Taylor has been Ward Sister at the Northern Hospital, Winchmore Hill, London; Night Sister and Tutor Sister at the North Wales Sanatorium, Denbigh; and Assistant Matron at the Prestwood Sanatorium, Stourbridge.

Newark Town and District Hospital, Newark.—Miss S. M. Underwood, S.R.N., S.C.M., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the General Hospital, Nottingham, and at the Leeds Maternity Hospital; and has been Out-patient Sister, Ward Sister, Assistant Sister Tutor, Senior Night Sister and Home Sister at the General Hospital, Nottingham; and Assistant Matron at the Chester Royal Infirmary. Miss Underwood holds a Housekeeping Certificate.

ASSISTANT MATRONS.

City Infectious Diseases Hospital, Little Bromwich, Birmingham.—Miss Helen Rae White, S.R.N., S.C.M., has been appointed First Assistant Matron. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Stirling, and at the County Hospital, Motherwell, and has been Ward Sister at the Borough Hospital, Croydon; Relief Home and Night Sister at the Brompton Hospital, London; Night Sister at the Memorial Hospital, Purley, Surrey; Night Sister at the Isolation Hospital, Waltham Abbey; Home Sister and Tutor at the East Ham Infectious Diseases Hospital; and Assistant Matron and Tutor at the Coathill Hospital, Coatbridge.

St. Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth.—Miss W. M. Sutcliffe, S.R.N., has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at St. Charles' Hospital, London, and has been Ward Sister at the Municipal General Hospital, Burnley, Lancs.; Theatre Sister, Sister Tutor and Home Sister at the Sharoe Green Hospital, Fulwood, Preston; and Assistant Matron at Botley's Park, Chertsey.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.**A NATIONAL HEALTH NURSING SERVICE.**

In reply to a communication from an Affiliated Association, the President has sent the following reply, which she thinks may interest others.

DEAR MADAM,

I beg to acknowledge your letter of March 13th. I shall be obliged if you will remind your Committee that there was practically no opposition to the suggestion from Headquarters of the National Council of Nurses last year, that meetings should be in abeyance for a time owing to War conditions in London, as the danger from raids was recognised, and the difficulties of travel rendered *representative* meetings impossible. So far no requests from affiliated Associations have reached me inviting such meetings in support of urgent matters of business.

In reply to your question of "How the funds are being used," a copy of the audited accounts to September 30th, 1940, was sent to the President of every Member Association of Nurses, when the gratifying report proved that there was a surplus of funds on each of the three accounts of the Council. No. 1, General Account; No. 2, Florence Nightingale Scholarships Appeal Fund; and No. 3; after paying the Treasurer of the International Council of Nurses the sum of £218 8s. 4d., there remained a surplus of £252 0s. 10d. to the good, sixteen Associations not having paid their subscriptions to date. These audited accounts were published in our official organ in November, 1940.

It must be borne in mind that the assured income of our National Council from Delegates' Fees rarely amounts to more than £65 per annum, some £650 passing to the International Council of Nurses for per capita fees.

It will be well after the war ceases, when the Constitution of our Council can receive consideration, that the question of finance should be seriously reorganised so that the present system of voluntary support should be superseded. At present the Council pays no rent or rates, or salaried officials, just a few pounds annually for clerical work, stamps, stationery, cost of meetings, etc. An expenditure of at least £500 will be required annually when voluntary work ceases. But now is not the time to incur any such expenditure, when activities must remain at a minimum.

Should your Committee have any useful suggestions to put forward for the benefit of national service at the present time please forward them to Headquarters, but I fear there is little use at the present time to suggest reforms we have little power of effecting.

The Government have in hand our admirable Naval, Military and Air Force Nursing Services, and the Ministry of Health has monopolised the Civil Nursing Reserve Service, established on a sadly inadequate basis, over which the Advisory Nursing Council has apparently little power to improve organisation in this connection. The Ministry of Health will be called upon in the future to establish a Registered Nurse as Matron-in-Chief of a National Health Nursing Service. The ignorance in our ranks of political economy is to blame for the present invidious position, and until nurses are encouraged in our Nursing Schools to value self-determination, we cannot attain our full value in a scheme for national standards of health.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

ETHEL G. FENWICK
(President N.C.N.).

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