

NURSING AT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

Whatever the result, the Ministry of Health is up and doing. One morning's post brought us five circulars and leaflets—all of an informative nature: (1) Gas Precautions for Medical Supplies; (2) Preparedness Against the Possibility of Gas Attacks; (3) Training of Occupational Therapists; (4) Liability for National Service of Lay Staffs of Hospitals; (5) An eight-paged Circular on "Nursing," which contains 31 paragraphs of directions—all useful, no doubt.

Eligibility for the Civil Nursing Reserve.

The Minister understands that it still sometimes happens that nurses already in essential employment—*e.g.*, as permanent nursing staff of a hospital authority, make application for enrolment in the Civil Nursing Reserve. Since the Reserve is intended to supplement existing nursing staffs, it follows that, as stated in C.N.R. Memo. 1, those already employed in essential nursing duties are not eligible for enrolment. This includes nurses employed in any type of hospital, in any other form of public health service, and in industrial nursing. Applications to join the Reserve should be carefully scrutinised from this aspect. Every effort should also be made to prevent nurses from resigning from their existing employment with a view to joining the Reserve. The national importance of the work they are already in should be explained to them, and they should be reminded that members of the Reserve enrolling under the new arrangements are liable to be transferred to any part of the country and to any hospital at a moment's notice.

References.

The Minister desires also to take this opportunity of reiterating the need to take up and examine carefully the references submitted with applications to join the Reserve. It has been brought to the Minister's notice that some members have been enrolled in spite of receiving quite unsatisfactory references. Local Emergency Organisations will appreciate the importance of maintaining a high standard in the Reserve and the Minister trusts that they will rigorously exclude candidates whose references show that they are unlikely to give satisfactory service.

Safeguards when Nursing Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Where members of the Civil Nursing Reserve, whether trained or assistant nurses or nursing auxiliaries, are allocated to the nursing of patients with pulmonary tuberculosis, it is essential, in the nurse's interests, that the following safeguards should be observed:—

(a) Before employing a nurse in these duties tuberculin skin tests should be performed, and negative reactors should not be so employed.

(b) An X-ray examination of the lungs should be made before commencing these duties, and further X-ray examinations should be made at intervals of six months. Continuous duty in attending patients with pulmonary tuberculosis for prolonged periods without intermission should, if possible, be avoided.

(c) Before commencing these duties a nurse should be given special instruction in the nursing of patients with pulmonary tuberculosis, in the methods of spread of the infection and in personal prophylaxis. During the periods of duty she should be under observations with regard to loss of weight and other symptoms of possible infection.

Gas Precautions for Medical Supplies.

Tests have now been made by boiling specimens of the finer grades of rubber materials referred to in paragraph (4) of Circular 2385. As a result it has been confirmed that

gum elastic catheters are rendered unserviceable by boiling and should therefore be destroyed if they have become contaminated.

On the other hand, thin rubber drain sheeting and thin rubber gloves which had been subjected to a lengthy period of droplet contamination were undamaged by immersion in boiling water for 30 minutes. After being allowed to dry, physiological tests showed that the boiling had effected complete decontamination.

NIGHTINGALEIANA.

Miss Nightingale's Crimean Carriage Smashed.

Nurses throughout the world will learn with real grief of the further bombing by the ruthless enemy of St. Thomas's Hospital, London. In the last attack Nightingale Home, which is attached to the hospital where Florence Nightingale founded her Nurses' Home, has been partly destroyed, and the beautiful new Riddell House for Nurses has also been hit, together with St. Thomas's House, the Students' home. To lovers of history the wonderful "Nightingale Collection," consisting of many unique mementoes of Miss Nightingale—books, letters, prints, medals, statues, and personal possessions, etc.—were a never failing exhibition to nurses from all over the world who visited the Nightingale Home—and to learn that the carriage used by Miss Nightingale in the Crimea, a unique possession, has been wrecked by a bomb—will arouse an indignant sense of loss not to be estimated. We do hope the collection as a whole has been saved, so many of the souvenirs cannot be replaced.

TO HONOUR THE MEMORY OF FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

Annual Service for Nurses.

We have pleasure in publishing the order of service held on May 11th, in Liverpool Cathedral, to honour the memory of Florence Nightingale.

One who was present writes: "It was both beautiful and impressive."

The Matrons of many hospitals were present, and 100 nurses in uniform had special seats.

The Lord Mayor, the Lord Lieutenant, and the Commander-in-Chief, Western Approaches, will be received by the Dean, together with representatives of the Merseyside Hospitals' Nursing Services.

The people having in mind the words of the Prime Minister, through "blood and tears, toil and sweat" to Victory, the choir shall sing the preparation as over.

Then shall the Dean pray Lord Derby to bid a greeting to the fine workers of the Nursing and Public services of our city for their thrilling toil and care during the past week, Lord Derby then saying:—

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you all, confident that He who hath begun a good work in you will perform it even unto the end.

God save the King."

Then shall silence be kept for a space while remembrance is had of those who have suffered and died for their friends. Hymn 515. "He who would valiant be."

Lesson. Isa., Chap. lx., v. 1-5. To be read by the Commander-in-Chief, Western Approaches (Admiral Sir Percy Noble.

Magnificat Stanford, in G.

Collects and Thanksgivings.

Hymn 631. "Rejoice O Land in God thy might."

Address The Dean.

Hymn 491. "Fight the good fight."

Benediction.

Hymn 322. "O Beautiful my Country."

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