

PROFESSIONAL NURSING.

"Professional Nursing," a four-page leaflet, is published by the Nursing Information Bureau of the American Nurses' Association, and we quote below, under the heading:

STANDARDS MUST BE MAINTAINED.

"Standards must be maintained is the cry on both sides of the Atlantic, with which demand this Journal is, of course, in warm sympathy.

The question is, how, under economic pressure? Anyway, let us note what the U.S.A. says about maintaining standards—as on this side there is apparently a race to tear them down. With the demolition of the one portal, the safeguard in our Registration Act, we are now at the mercy of every class of employer—who has little or no professional knowledge—but who dominate the nursing of the unfortunate sick-poor. To listen to the twaddle advanced in our House of Commons makes one despair of women M.P.s. To quote from "Professional Nursing":

"Any measures taken at this time to meet the need for additional nurses should *uphold* and *strengthen* present standards of nursing education."

So voted the Nursing Council on National Defence at its meeting on November 8, 1940.

Since the last war 25 per cent. of the nursing schools in the country have been eliminated. The remaining schools have larger enrolments. Educational facilities are improving; 80 schools of nursing are affiliated with colleges and universities. Hours for students—and for graduates, too—have been shortened; 20 years ago, hospitals with schools of nursing employed very few graduate staff nurses. Many thousands of graduate nurses are now so employed. The principle of assigning non-nursing duties to helpers, or subsidiary workers, has been generally accepted. Many such workers are now so employed. Students are better selected. Better experience is provided for them. Supply and demand in nursing seem to be fairly well balanced.

These gains must not be lost.

The Council recognises that although recent graduates are better prepared, the demands upon nurses have also risen. The number of *highly qualified nurse specialists* needed in hospitals, nursing schools and public health nursing agencies is still greater than the supply. Increased industrial production will require more well-prepared industrial nurses. The Army now needs 4,000 additional nurses. A national emergency speeds up turnover. Demands for nurses are apt to increase.

When the emergency is over, however, depression is sure to follow.

The Nursing Council on National Defence recommends that *quality* be emphasised in the selection and preparation of nurses. The number of poorly-prepared nurses—nurses who cannot adjust to changing conditions—must not be increased.

The Council recommends also:—

(1) That a carefully selected group of nursing schools be asked to expand their resources and that efforts be made to secure state or federal funds for this purpose.

The Council does not believe that all schools of nursing should be asked to increase their enrolments at this time, nor that hospitals which closed nursing schools during the last depression should be asked to reopen them.

(2) That the services of inactive nurses be enlisted to replace those withdrawn for military and other services created by the emergency; and that assistance be given in planning refresher and special courses for them.

According to the "Sampling Inventory" of registered nurses in the District of Columbia, many more nurses, inactive in nursing, are in our communities than we realise.

An interesting type of refresher course for such nurses has already been started in Hartford, Connecticut. In New

York, under the sponsorship of the State League, carefully planned refresher courses, from six weeks to three months in length, will be offered to registered nurses after January 1, 1941.

(3) That existing educational resources be strengthened and supported in every way possible, in order to maintain and increase nursing efficiency at this time.

A small study of some 50 schools of nursing, undertaken by the National League of Nursing Education during the last few months, indicated that these schools can admit about 600 additional well-qualified students in the Spring of 1941. If funds can be secured for instructors' salaries and other costs, they may be able to take in still more students.

The Nursing Council believes that enrolments in good schools could well be augmented by 4,000 carefully selected students this coming year. Much of its effort, therefore, will be directed towards securing funds for expanding some of the existing schools, and towards recruiting above-average students for these schools.

A need for well-prepared nurses exists. But in meeting that need—Standards Must be Maintained!

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRON.

Royal Infirmary Sheffield.—Miss May E. Moss, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London, where she later became Ward Sister, and received her Fever Training at St. William's Hospital, Rochester. Miss Moss has been Assistant Matron at the Sheffield Royal Infirmary for a number of years.

Municipal Hospital, Oldham.—Miss A. M. Busley, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron. She received her General Training at the Eccles and Patricroft Hospital, Manchester; Fever Training at the City Hospital, Seacroft, Leeds; Housekeeping Training at the General Infirmary, Leeds; and Midwifery Training at the City Maternity Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent. Miss Busley has been Sister Tutor at the Ladywell Sanatorium, Salford, and Matron at Westhulme Hospital, Oldham.

DEPUTY MATRON.

Exeter Isolation Hospital.—Miss G. Henson, S.R.N., R.F.N., has been appointed Deputy Matron. She was trained at the Royal Free Hospital, London, W.C., and has been Ward Sister at the Hawkmoor Sanatorium, Bovey Tracey, and Staff Nurse at the Eastern Hospital, Homerton, London.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

General Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.—Miss Catherine C. Ross, S.R.N., S.C.M., has been appointed second Assistant Matron. She was trained at Queen Mary's Hospital for the East End, London, where she later returned as Night Sister. Miss Ross has also been Night Sister at Princess Alice Hospital, Eastbourne; Ward Sister, Home and Housekeeping Sister and Assistant Matron at the Hampstead General Hospital, London. She received housekeeping training at the Salisbury Infirmary.

ASSISTANT MATRON AND SISTER TUTOR.

Horton General Hospital, Banbury, Oxon. Miss Helena A. Smith, S.R.N., has been appointed Assistant Matron-Sister Tutor. She was trained at the North Middlesex County Hospital, Edmonton, where she was later Theatre Sister; and has been Relief Sister at the General Hospital, Halifax; Night Sister and Sister Tutor at Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport; Sister Tutor and Home Sister at the London Jewish Hospital; and Sister Tutor at Clare Hall Hospital, Barnet. Miss Smith took her Sister Tutor's Certificate at the Battersea Polytechnic, London, and holds the Housekeeping Certificate of the Warneford Hospital, Leamington Spa.

SISTER TUTOR AND HOME SISTER.

Peterborough and District Memorial Hospital.—Miss Gladys Newton, S.R.N., has been appointed Sister Tutor and Home Sister. She was trained at the Provincial Hospital, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, and has been Sister Tutor at Tarrytown Hospital, New York, and Sister Tutor at the Memorial Hospital, Bulawayo.

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