

NURSES' SALARIES' COMMITTEE.

NURSES' PANEL.

Miss Dorothy M. Elliott, Hon. Secretary of the Nurses' Panel of the Nurses' Salaries Committee, has sent an interim report of its proceedings to date, to the Rt. Hon. Lord Rushcliffe, C.B.E., the Chairman, in which she informs him that the Committee has in mind the desire of the Minister for speed. The three main objects the Committee has in mind are :

- (1) To assist the Minister in obtaining nurses to staff the general hospitals of the country.
- (2) To secure the professional status of the nurse.
- (3) To improve the educational side of nurse training.

It is generally felt that for many years nurses have been underpaid, and that there was a distinct depression of salaries, particularly in the hospital services. This was probably due to the fact that in many hospitals it was not possible to pay higher rates than were offered.

The Committee is of the opinion that by setting a reasonable salary standard, it will attract many girls who are now entering other professions or employment.

It will be noted that the rates suggested for the Sister Tutors are considerably increased, and the reason for this is that it is the desire of the Nurses' Panel for Sister Tutors to be retained on the teaching side of the hospital and not to be attracted by the salaries offered on the administrative side. The need for Sister Tutors is urgent.

THE PROBATIONER versus THE STUDENT NURSE.

The Panel believes that future recruitment to the nursing profession depends largely on the nurse in training being recruited as a student rather than a form of cheap labour to carry on the work of the hospitals, as has been the tendency in the past.

While it is realised that certain domestic and routine duties form an important part of her training, it is emphasised that these must not be so heavy as to prove detrimental to the standard and scope of her instruction and experience. For the purpose of adequate educational training, the Panel suggests the establishment of a system of grants from national funds to all recognised training hospitals in respect of the national work done by the training of nurses, and that there should be as a natural consequence supervision and inspection of training standards.

NOTES.

In order that preliminary consideration to salary scales may be given the Nurses' Panel is submitting these proposals, but they wish to make it clear that these will be followed at the earliest possible date with further proposals (in connection with emoluments, and certain matters connected with conditions), without which the salaries scale in their opinion will be inadequate.

NEXT MEETING.

The next Meeting of the Salaries' Committee will take place at the Ministry of Health on January 23rd, at 10.30 a.m.

CIVIL NURSING RESERVE.

On Saturday, February 7th, at 2.30 p.m., Miss Florence Horsbrugh, C.B.E., M.P., is to preside at a Mass Meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, and will present Red Stars to Nursing Auxiliaries attached to the London Region who have completed one or two years of satisfactory service.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

The following kind greeting has been received from International Headquarters, 310, Cedar Street, New Haven, Connecticut, U.S.A., 1941-1942 :—

MY DEAR COLLEAGUE :

During the year that has passed much has happened to each and all of us. Some who were here when the year began are no longer with us, but our friendship for each other has strengthened, proving that distance is no barrier.

The personality of the Council is most aptly expressed in the words of the Indian poet, Rabindranath Tagore :

"Thou hast made me known to friends whom I knew not. Thou hast given me seats in homes not my own. Thou hast brought the distant near and made a brother of the stranger. . . . When one knows thee, then alien there is none ; then no door is shut."

Our hearts are united by these thoughts and we look forward to the time when as friends we shall meet again.

Very faithfully yours,

EFFIE J. TAYLOR.
ANNA SCHWARZENBERG.
CALISTA F. BANWARTH.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

We hear nothing but warm appreciation of Miss Isabel Macdonald's lovely Calendar for 1942, entitled: "Immortality." So much so that the issue of 3,500 was soon sold out, and at least 500 applicants disappointed.

We were fortunate to secure copies, which we sent to the Presidents of English-speaking National Organisations of Nurses grouped in the International Council of Nurses—Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, and the United States of America—with greetings and good wishes for 1942 from the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain—feeling sure that the inspired quotations would be a daily consolation in this time of distress throughout the world, to all who sympathise with human suffering :

"IMMORTALITY."

Thursday, January 1st :

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him ; and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life ; and the life was the light of men. The light shineth in darkness ; and the darkness comprehended it not."—*Gospel according to St. John.*

"THE OLD LADY WITH A BASKET."

Several readers have missed the wisdom of "The Old Lady with a Basket" who has maintained a long silence ; so we wrote and enquired what she was doing.

Her reply was characteristic :

"Dear Editor, for one thing I have been living with the people, with those who have lost their all, and who mean after the War has ceased to call those politicians who are responsible for it to account, the men and women who starved the Navy and the Army and failed to provide an Air Force. No good blaming Hitler (the devil will deal with him in his own time). We are to blame, every man Jack of us, for failing this land of glory. If I repeated what these people say you could not print it, so why waste time ?"

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)