

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

Lower Age Limit in Civil Nursing Reserve.

Girls who wish to take up nursing as their war work can now join the Civil Nursing Reserve as nursing auxiliaries at the age of 17½ instead of 18.

The Civil Nursing Reserve, organised by the Ministry of Health, which consists of three grades—trained nurses, assistant nurses and nursing auxiliaries—has at present 29,000 members in whole-time employment in Hospitals, First Aid Posts, Reception Area Services, Rest Centres and Shelter Medical Aid Posts.

Of this total 19,000 are nursing auxiliaries. Recruits for this grade, who need have no previous experience, but must in general be willing, if necessary, to serve in any part of the country, are given a fortnight's free training with an allowance of 10s. a week. When accepted for service they receive a salary of £55 a year, in addition to free board, lodging, laundry, and uniform. If an auxiliary member under the age of 30 wishes afterwards to take up nursing as a career she can apply to become a student nurse.

The lower age limit does not apply to Scotland, where the minimum age of entry of nursing auxiliaries is still 18 years.

Boric Acid Lint.

Acting on the advice of the Therapeutic Requirements Committee, the Minister of Health has decided to include in the Drug Tariff a new specification for boric acid lint which will be published in the forthcoming supplement to the British Pharmaceutical Codex. This lint will contain 5 per cent. of boric acid only, and because of its light weight it will be supplied *by area* instead of by weight. The new nominal sizes will approximate in area to the same nominal weights of the present boric lint, and chemists will be instructed to supply the corresponding size against any prescriptions accidentally ordering by weight. The new boric acid lint will be official on and after April 1st next. As manufacture of the present boric lint containing 40 per cent. of acid is being discontinued forthwith, stocks of this lint will soon be exhausted.

Insulin.

The Minister of Health announces that the supply position of *Insulin* is such that all steps must be taken to prevent any loss occurring through the non-use of existing stocks before the labelled expiry date.

As part of the provision made under the Emergency Hospital Scheme, stocks have been issued to many hospitals using little or no insulin in normal conditions, so that in the event of their beds being required for air-raid casualties they may be in a position to treat any diabetic patients among the casualties.

These Hospitals are largely Class II hospitals, Public Assistance Institutions, and others. At the present time, they are unable to turn over these stocks, and it is, therefore, imperative that special steps should be taken to avoid wastage of their supplies of this drug. Hospitals which are using insulin extensively are accordingly asked to co-operate in the arrangements set out below by accepting short-dated supplies from hospitals which are likely to be unable to use their present stocks, and to arrange periodical transfers of supplies so that those hospitals can always have available a minimum stock of reasonably new insulin.

Action must be initiated by those hospitals holding stocks of insulin which experience shows are unlikely to be used before its labelled expiry date. Not later than three months before that date, arrangements for its transfer to a hospital which can use it should be made. Local Authorities should,

as far as possible, solve their own problems by arranging for a regular turn-over at their more active hospitals of the stocks required to be held by all their hospitals, and replenishing the stocks at the less active hospitals. Hospitals which are unable to make such arrangements should seek the assistance of an active hospital in their neighbourhood. So far as possible these arrangements should include the maintenance at the less active hospital of the quantity of the initial issue and its periodical replacement.

The Minister is anxious that the policy of mutual assistance should be extended to any other drug or material which has a short life, and is confident that he can rely upon the active co-operation of all hospitals to secure the best use of all available supplies.

PNEUMONIA JACKETS.

The Board of Trade wish to point out that pneumonia jackets are not subject to rationing, and should, therefore, be supplied coupon-free.

APPOINTMENTS.

DEPUTY MATRON.

Runwell Hospital, near Wickford, Essex.—Miss Ada Dalton, S.R.N., R.M.N., S.C.M., has been appointed Deputy-Matron. She was trained at St. James' Hospital, Portsmouth, where she was later Sister Tutor, and at St. James' Hospital, Leeds. Miss Dalton has also been Deputy-Matron at the Wilts County Mental Hospital, Devizes.

RESIDENT DEPUTY MATRON.

St. Mary's Hospital, Luton.—Miss Frances Frew, S.R.N., has been appointed Resident Deputy Matron. She was trained at the Hope Hospital, Salford, where she was late Ward Sister, and has been Ward Sister, Night Sister, and X-Ray Sister at the Barking Hospital, Essex. Miss Frew took the House-keeping Course of the West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

Longmore Hospital, Edinburgh.—Miss Jamesena Dougall, R.G.N., has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and has been Matron at the Church of Scotland Sea of Galilee Mission Hospital, Tiberias, Palestine; and Night Sister at the Edinburgh Hospital for Women and Children (Bruntsfield Hospital).

HOME SISTER.

Birch Hill Hospital, Rochdale.—Miss Annie M. Philip, R.G.N., has been appointed Home Sister. She was trained at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, and has been Sister at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children and Women, Bristol; and Night Sister at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow.

NURSING RECRUITMENT SERVICE.

Notice of Appointment.

Miss M. Bonthron, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.F.N., has been appointed Travelling Secretary on the staff of the Nursing Recruitment Service, which was initiated by King Edward's Hospital Fund, and has now been extended to provincial hospitals with the co-operation of the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust.

Miss Bonthron took her general training at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.1, fever training at the City Hospital, Edinburgh, midwifery at the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich, and a housekeeping course at the General Hospital, Birmingham.

She has held appointments as Ward Sister and Night Sister at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and as Assistant Matron and Matron at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

She holds the Diploma in Nursing of the University of London and is examiner to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

Miss Bonthron takes up her appointment at the beginning of next month.

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