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## EDITORIAL.

### AN URGENT NATIONAL DUTY.

The Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S., requests all eligible State Registered Nurses to consider the possibility of offering their services to the Army. A steady stream of recruits to Q.A.I.M.N.S. Reserve is required in order that the Staffs of Military Hospitals overseas may be maintained. Hundreds more Sisters are required to fill these vacancies, and many more will be required for the European Front.

Application forms may be obtained from the local Ministry of Labour and National Service Appointments Office.

Matrons are earnestly requested to give every encouragement to members of their staff who can be made available and to all nurses who pass their final State examination, to join the Army in order that the sick and wounded may receive expert nursing care. This matter has now become urgent, and 100 per cent. increase in the weekly intake into Q.A.I.M.N.S. Reserve is imperative.

By arrangement with the Ministry of Labour and National Service, State Registered Nurses with experience in Sick Children nursing are now eligible for enrolment.

We desire to support urgently this appeal of Dame Katharine Jones, R.R.C., herself a most patriotic and devoted servant of the fighting forces.

### THE NATIONAL HEALTH.

For the future we shall try to devote a certain amount of space to the National Health, in the hope that under the newly-appointed Minister of Health, skilled Nursing will take its place, together with organised medicine, as an indispensable service for people of all classes, and, as a highly skilled profession, will be governed by qualified nurses, as all men's professions are, and not by ignorant and autocratic politicians and interested employers.

Alas! the removal of Mr. Ernest Brown from the Ministry of Health has come too late to save the Nursing standards attained with such devotion, and at such stupendous cost, for the time being. But it is to be hoped that the spirit which inspired the public duty of the leaders of nursing reform in the past will animate the policy of Registered Nurses in the future, and that, under the authority of Mr. H. W. Willink, M.C., K.C., M.P., the newly appointed Minister of Health, an era of sympathetic understanding will become evident in organising the scheme for the health of the people, without which understanding no system will effect the evolution of Medicine and Nursing into a service worthy of adoption.

### NURSING IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE.

It is reported that the new Committee on Nursing in the Colonial Empire, under the chairmanship of Lord Rushcliffe, will deal with the training in this country and overseas of nurses who will serve in colonial territories. It is surmised that their services will be urgently needed until such time as a sufficient number of native nurses have been trained for the responsibility themselves.

Meanwhile training schemes are in operation throughout the colonies in British tropical Africa. For example, schools have been opened and lectures and practical demonstrations are given in African hospitals by European sisters. In Nigeria and Sierra Leone a new type of medical assistant, the dresser-midwife, has been created. What is now being done is only a beginning. In West and East Africa the problem is not simply the training of nurses; it is also to raise the general level of women's education and to attract to the Nursing Profession the best types of African girls. Schemes for the development of the Nursing Services are therefore proceeding side by side with plans for educational reform.

Our Colonial Empire must not be confused with our great self-governing Dominions, the nursing standards in which have much we might emulate at home, and it is to be hoped that Lord Rushcliffe's Committee will sedulously avoid advancing second-rate standards such as those inaugurated in the Nurses Acts, 1943, for England and Wales and for Scotland, and which we must hope to see eliminated at an early date.

### TRAINING OF STUDENT NURSES.

#### (a) TRAINING IN TUBERCULOSIS NURSING

1. The Ministry of Health has called the attention of the Authorities of all Hospitals which are approved by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales as training schools to the following statement recently issued by the General Nursing Council with reference to the existing arrangements for the recognition of training in Sanatoria and other Tuberculosis institutions:—

"In view of the existing shortage of nursing staff in sanatoria the General Nursing Council for England and Wales wish to draw the attention of the authorities concerned to the following arrangements which are in existence for the recognition of training in such institutions.

The Council regard the experience to be gained in sanatoria as of great value to a nurse and are of the opinion that, if these schemes were made more widely known to nurses and were acted upon more freely by the authorities, the sanatoria would benefit by an increase in staff and nurses in training would gain experience which would be to their great advantage.

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