

The new Minister of Health, the Right Hon. Henry U. Willink, M.C., K.C., M.P., is a man to be envied because he assumes office when there is a great work to be done in the organisation of a national public health service with the aid of the medical and nursing professions, both of which are eager to exercise their expert knowledge for the benefit of the people; so long as uprising standards of efficiency are encouraged from Headquarters, based on scientific and practical knowledge of preventive medicine and positive health.

Let us hope the spirit inspiring this national service may generously recognise the knowledge and service of medicine and nursing, and encourage their practical evolution for the benefit of the whole nation and of mankind. To institute an efficient Health Service throughout the country constitutes service of the highest order. Mr. Willink is to be envied that the opportunity falls to his lot. We wish him all success in its evolution.

News from U.S.A. is full of the wonderful efforts being made throughout America to meet the nursing needs of the fighting forces, and the Bolton Bill signed by the President in June, is now an enabling Act, authorising expenditure of Federal funds for:—

(1) Refresher courses for nurses who have been inactive in nursing.

(2) Post-graduate study in special fields of nursing.

(3) Basic "training" of student nurses. Student nurses participating in the plan for "basic training" set up by the Bolton Act, will be known as members of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps.

Cadet nurses will complete the programme of instruction of 30 months, and will be assigned to special service in a military, non-military, government, or civilian hospital or other agency for six months thereafter.

The Director of the Division of Nurse Education who will direct the programme of the Corps is Miss Lucile Petry, who has been granted a leave of absence from the position of Dean of the Cornell University School of Nursing.

Since 1941, Congress has appropriated \$5,300,000 for nursing education.

This money has been spent for:—

(1) Refresher courses for nurses who have been inactive in nursing.

(2) Post-graduate nursing courses.

(3) Basic "training" of student nurses.

As a result of the appropriations, over 4,000 "inactive" or retired nurses have been "refreshed"; over 2,500

nurses have taken post-graduate courses, especially in public-health nursing, supervision, teaching and anaesthesia; and over 12,000 student nurses were enrolled in nursing schools.

Money very well spent, in our opinion. How different to the questionable ethics recently adopted at our Ministry of Health where an autocratic Minister and his satellites promoted legislation enabling them to appropriate money subscribed by Registered Nurses to subsidise legislation injurious to their professional interests.

Those of us who have kept in touch with international nursing affairs, as far as possible during the war, have kept an eye on Miss Yvonne Hentsch, of Switzerland, who was so helpful an official in the I.C.N. office at Geneva, and who now holds the position of Chief, Nursing Division, League of Red Cross Societies, Geneva.

We have special reason to be grateful to Miss Hentsch—as when compiling the programme for the I.C.N. Congress held in London in 1937 it was issued in three languages—English, French and German—and to Miss Hentsch's supervision in helping us to correct proofs its accuracy was largely due.

Recently we enjoyed a visit from Miss Hentsch, who spent a few days in London on her way to Geneva—learned with pleasure of her recent visit to U.S.A. and South America, where she did some very useful work in making enquiries internationally into nursing conditions—a very interesting field of inspection—where the I.C.N. may look forward in the future to a sphere of evolution in health and nursing standards. Miss Hentsch brought us lovely kind messages from nursing "stars" in the States—from Prof. M. Adelaide Nutting,

Teachers College, N.Y.; Miss Annie W. Goodrich, an Hon. President I.C.N.; Miss Mary M. Roberts, Editor, *American Journal of Nursing*, and many others. Miss Hentsch attended the great fiftieth anniversary at Chicago of the National League of Nursing Education and reports that it was "simply marvellous," great speakers—an uprising policy—and no lowering of standards. Such reports are very inspiring to their colleagues in Great Britain.

Her Majesty Queen Mary has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of 94 nurses to be Queen's Nurses—65 in England, 2 in Wales, 25 in Scotland, and 2 in Northern Ireland.

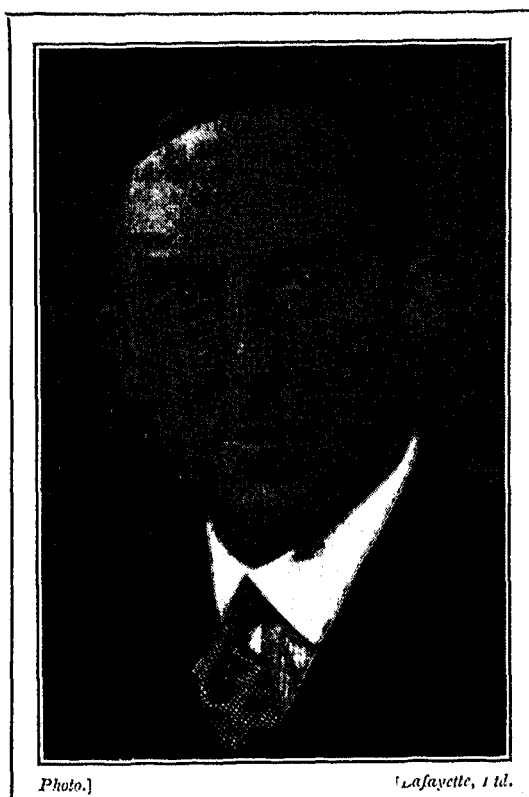


Photo.] Lafayette, 111.  
THE RIGHT HON. HENRY U. WILLINK,  
M.C., K.C., M.P., MINISTER OF HEALTH.

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