

difficult to find a place in a General Hospital Training School for the Mental Nurse.

4. HOURS OF DUTY.—In conformity with all other branches of Nursing, the shortened hours of duty are recommended; 96 hours per fortnight.

5. SALARIES.—It is regretted that the salaries of Mental Nurses were not considered by the Rushcliffe Committee with the salaries and conditions in other branches of nursing.

The Mental Hospital Matrons' Association request that Lord Rushcliffe's Committee will recommend a scale of salaries for all ranks of the Mental Nursing Services comparable with the scales published for General Hospitals.

6. EMOLUMENTS.—A Nurses' Home should be provided and nurses in training should be resident. Trained Nurses should be allowed to be non-resident, if they wish. Emoluments of board, residence, uniform, laundry, etc., should be provided in kind, and not in cash. The present system in many hospitals whereby emoluments are reckoned in cash and deductions made from the total salary is open to many abuses, such as nurses absenting themselves from meals to receive cash instead, and such emoluments are liable to income tax deductions, a fact that places the nurse at a disadvantage in comparison with other nursing services.

7. SUPERANNUATION.—It is urgently recommended that the present anomaly in the Asylums and Certified Institutions Officers' Pensions Act, whereby Mental Nurses are classed as 1st Class Officers and Mental Deficiency Nurses as 2nd Class Officers with a difference in retirement age and amount of pension disadvantageous to the latter, be removed. Mental Deficiency Nursing is no less arduous than Mental Nursing, pensions should be equal, with retirement at 55 years or after 30 years' service.

The present anomalies in this Pension Act preclude interchange between the two mental services, and prevent the nurse, in many cases, from obtaining experience in other branches of the nursing profession.

8. DOMESTIC STAFF.—It is recommended that an adequate number of domestic staff be employed for the Nurses' Home and for the Hospital Wards and other Wards and Departments, as far as possible; and that Porters be employed for portering duties, in order that the Nurses may devote themselves to nursing duties and the care of the patients. These domestic workers, male and female, should have salaries, conditions and hours of duty comparable with those for the nursing staff, and they should be superannuated.

I. R. TAYLOR, *Chairman*.

OLIVE ASHFORD, *Secretary*.

MENTAL HOSPITAL MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

May, 1943.

NURSES' POLITICS.

We have been making a few enquiries concerning Nurses' politics, as it is a matter they apparently keep to themselves.

We were somewhat surprised to learn quite a number belong to the Communist Party—to Trades Unions—and that some are now taking an interest in the new Common Wealth Party. Labour is apparently too masculine and autocratic where women are concerned; and the Unionist Party, as one nurse put it, "is governed by greats"—by that she meant, socially influential, rich and "superior persons." They prefer men to women as Members of Parliament; and one, with an original attitude to life, would prefer no Parliament as at present organised, which is, in her opinion, a "costly tyranny," as indeed it has proved over recent Nursing legislation.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST.

HONOURS FOR NURSES.

ROYAL RED CROSS.

His Majesty has approved the following promotion in, and appointments to, the Royal Red Cross for outstanding zeal, patience and cheerfulness, and for courage and whole-hearted devotion to duty while serving in His Majesty's naval hospitals in the last six months or more of war.

Royal Naval Nursing Service.

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