

THE ASSISTANT NURSE ARRIVES.

We have received the following information from the Ministry of Health :—

MINISTRY OF HEALTH—ASSISTANT NURSE.

The Minister of Health has approved and laid before Parliament certain Rules, made by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales under Part I of the Nurses Act, 1943, relating to the formation of a Roll of Assistant Nurses. The Rules set out the procedure for admission to the Roll of "existing" assistant nurses, and assistant nurses with "intermediate" qualifications. They cover the period before rules prescribing the future training of assistant nurses (which are in course of preparation) are made and approved.

Inquiries about the form in which application for admission to the Roll should be made, may be made in writing to the Registrar, General Nursing Council for England and Wales, 23, Portland Place, London, W.1.

The making and approval of these Rules is the first step in carrying out the measures provided for under the Nurses Act, 1943. This Act, in addition to the provisions designed to secure a recognised status for the assistant nurse, provides for the protection of the public by restricting the use of the title "nurse" to persons possessing certain qualifications and by regulating the conduct of agencies for the supply of nurses. These further provisions do not come into operation until the Minister of Health so determines, but the opening of the Roll of Assistant Nurses brings nearer the time when it will be possible for the Minister to give effect to them.

REGISTERED NURSES COMMANDEERED.

Despite the general improvement in the supply of nurses there has not been a corresponding alleviation of the acute shortages, particularly of trained staff, in certain special fields of nursing employment. These shortages can only be relieved by some measure of redistribution of trained nurses. The Minister of Labour has accordingly decided that all nurses immediately after admission to the General State Register shall take further training or employment for a year in one of the fields of special shortage. The only exceptions will be :—

(1) Those nurses who have already had at least a year's employment in one of those fields, *e.g.*, during Fever training or under an affiliation scheme between a Sanatorium and a general training hospital.

(2) Those accepted for immediate service in one of the Nursing Services of the Crown.

(3) Those taking a further course of training to become District Nurses.

The requirement will operate immediately on the completion of State Registration, and will not be postponed merely to enable hospital contracts for a longer period of training to be fulfilled.

The Minister accordingly expects training hospitals which at present have a four-year contract of training, to review their staffing and training arrangements immediately on the basis that they will be required to release trained nurses for the year's special service immediately after State Registration.

NURSING ECHOES.

THE EDITOR ATTAINS AN EIGHTY-SEVENTH BIRTHDAY.

On Wednesday, January 26th, the Editor of this Journal and President of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was entertained to a sumptuous tea by the Council at 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7. Miss Helena McLoughlin, S.R.N., F.B.C.N. (Vice-President), together with Miss A. Stewart Bryson, S.R.N., F.B.C.N. (Secretary), presided, and the atmosphere was inspired by kindly friendship. The Vice-President congratulated Mrs. Bedford Fenwick on her active and consistent leadership, which she hoped might continue for many years. In reply, the President thanked the Council for its loyal support and generosity. To be fighting, she said, for the high standards of efficiency for the sick, upon which their lives often depended, and for justice for Registered Nurses—at present despitefully used; although they were in the minority, was an inspiring policy—which was quite certain to triumph at no distant date. Anyway, win or lose, for the time being, their cause was right, and that was the only inspiration worthy of a true knight.

Generous financial support had come to them and they must use it for the benefit of the community. Failure was a word for which she had no use. During the past half-century she had spent many hours in the pillory for freedom's sake and had come out smiling.

Everyone present appeared inspired by the instinct of courage, and it only needs that they should infect their colleagues with their sense of professional duty to sweep away the injurious results of recent nursing legislation.

A purchasing voucher was presented to Mrs. Fenwick, with which she intends to acquire "Lives" of St. Joan of Arc, the Saint that she holds in the highest veneration.

The news that Miss Gladys M. Hardy, S.R.N., D.N. (London), F.B.C.N., has been appointed Matron of the Mater Infirmorum Hospital at Belfast comes as a blow to many of her friends in England, who, however, wish her all happiness and success in her new sphere of work where her special talents of teacher will have ample scope.

The Nursing School attached to the Mater Infirmorum Hospital stands high in Northern Ireland, the students paying for their training as women in other professions do, and, as a medical school and other activities are attached, the work is progressive.

Miss Hardy has held her present post as Matron of the Battersea General Hospital, London, for five years. She has for three years been Sister Tutor at Charing Cross Hospital. She is a very active examiner for the General Nursing Council for England and Wales and of Nurses at Charing Cross Hospital.

Miss Hardy, as we all know, is a courageous lady, opposed to de-grading of nursing standards so unwisely advocated by many of her colleagues with disastrous results.

The fact that promotion in the hospital world is limited for those of the Roman Catholic faith has, no

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