

**THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.**

A meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses will be held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Wednesday, April 19th, at 2.30 p.m., when it is hoped to receive reports on reconstruction and future organisation. Everything possible is being done to meet the disaster, and we have no doubt that given time—and by time, we mean months of intensive work and reorganisation—the College will attain its former unique place in nursing organisation. In the meantime, its policy of upgrade progressive efficiency in nursing standards will be upheld to the utmost, and the demand that Registered Nurses shall finance the organisation of unqualified women will be determinedly resisted.

**MISS BALLARD WINS THE MASARYK PRIZE AND DIPLOMA.**

We have pleasure in congratulating Miss Henrietta Ballard, S.R.N., D.N., M.B.C.N., on winning the "Masaryk Prize and Diploma for an essay written on the Subject of the Health Charter of Europe."

Dr. Stella Churchill was the first prizewinner, and Miss Ballard was the only nurse to win a prize. Several had diplomas.

The Prize awarded to Miss Ballard amounted to £30.

The International Health Charter Movement should have a very useful future before it, and we feel sure, when the International Council of Nurses takes up active work after the War, that it will be in sympathy with associating itself with every effort for promoting the health of the nations, so many of which have suffered severely from the deprivations of war.

Miss Ballard is well known for the pioneer organisation she promoted for the higher education and organisation of sister tutors, which is now receiving consideration by the General Nursing Council.

**CURED BY ELECTRIC SHOCK.**

Success of new methods of treatment now being undertaken in certain cases of mental illness was referred to by Professor D. K. Henderson, Physical Superintendent, Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders, at the Annual Meeting.

"Perhaps the most dramatic forms of treatment which we have at our command to-day," said the Professor "are what are known as the electric shock method and the operation of leuototomy. Both of these methods have brought us to the recognition of the fact that it is possible to change a person's mood or conduct in a very much more rapid and drastic manner than ever was thought possible."

The recoveries promoted by the electrical shock method in suitable cases amount to approximately 80 per cent.

The rapidity of the cure is one of the great benefits. It means that many a person suffering from depression or melancholia can be reconstituted in the course of a week or two when, ordinarily, recovery might extend for a period of months.

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH.****WOMEN DIETITIANS APPOINTED. ADVISORY SERVICE FOR HOSPITALS.**

The Minister of Health, Mr. Henry Willink, has augmented the Ministry's staff responsible for visiting and advising hospitals on the best methods of preparing, cooking and serving meals to patients and staff by the appointment of two women dietitians.

They are: Miss H. G. Cairney, M.B.E., and Miss M. R. Muriel.

Miss Cairney, who holds a Dietetic Diploma, was from the outbreak of war until her present appointment sister-in-charge at the London County Council Diabetic unit at Hutton School, Brentwood.

Miss Muriel was previously with the Ministry of Food. Part of her work while with that Department was to report on hospital feeding, and she carried out surveys at several large hospitals.

Since the setting up of the Emergency Hospital Scheme the Ministry of Health has been responsible for the treatment and care of large numbers of hospital patients. Feeding is an important side of hospital administration, and to assist in dealing with catering problems, the Ministry appointed Captain J. Fraser, an expert in catering and kitchen equipment, soon after the war started. He has visited over 300 hospitals, and wherever necessary has made suggestions with the object of improving the standard and quality of meals. Medical officers specialising in nutrition questions have also inspected emergency hospitals in many parts of the country.

The advisory services of this special staff will be available to assist all types of hospitals—municipal and voluntary, as well as fever hospitals and tuberculosis sanatoria. As far as possible they will cover the whole field of hospital catering—purchase of foodstuffs, selection of menus and diets, and the preparation, cooking and serving of meals.

In 1942 the Ministry issued for the guidance of hospital catering staffs a booklet called "War-time Feeding in Hospitals." This contained specimen diets and menus.

The King Edward Hospital Fund recently appointed an advisory dietitian to assist voluntary hospitals in Greater London on dietary questions. Arrangements have been made to co-ordinate the work so that the Ministry's advisory service does not overlap with the activities of the Fund.

**WORK OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.**

There are now 231 hostels, with nearly 5,000 places for children who are unsuitable for ordinary billets under the evacuation scheme, owing to some difficulty of temperament or behaviour. Women of suitable personality and experience are urgently needed for posts as Matrons and Assistant Matrons in these hostels. This is recognised by the Ministry of Labour as work of national importance.

The Ministry of Health is offering one month's experience in specially selected hostels to suitable applicants who wish to improve their qualifications for such posts. During this period they will be regarded as additional members of the hostel staff; they will receive free board and lodging, and payment of 25s. weekly and travelling expenses will be paid.

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