

appointed by such educational bodies as are primarily engaged in the promotion of nursing education; (c) Non-nurses appointed by Government and public bodies.

The functions of the Councils should be divided into two parts—administrative and educational—which is to include the instruction of the Assistant Nurse.

The College Council does not accept recommendation 50 as part of its policy. Miss H. Dey and Miss D. M. Smith dissent from Recommendations 49 and 50. Miss I. R. Taylor dissents from Recommendation 50. Clause (b) 56 recommends that the Councils should, if necessary, receive financial assistance from national funds to facilitate the proper discharge of their functions. The introduction of young girls of 17 and under to practical bedside nursing is unadvisable.

The Student Nurse.

If the College Recommendations are carried out, the Student Nurse will have our sympathy; and it would be interesting to know who is going to nurse the patients whose interests are not emphasised in the Recommendations?

As for domestic organisation so imperatively necessary in the care of the sick, we see no reference to it whatever.

The people who are to have a finger in the pie is amazing—the Minister of Health, the Minister of Labour, Medical Officers of Health, chairmen and committees of hospitals and nurse training schools; public local authorities, secretary superintendents and secretaries of hospitals, medical superintendents of hospitals, and Matrons, Sister Tutors, and numerous educationists, to say nothing of Members of Nursing Councils and Examiners, or the policy of the Trade Nursing Press, its financial “perks” from nursing “ads.” which run into thousands of pounds annually, and in consequence which exercises unlimited power in various directions.

What the Nursing Profession may lose:—

(1) The power of self-government in their governing body, the General Nursing Council, which they now possess if they have the courage to use it—16 votes to 9.

(2) Financial control, as the Registered Nurses supply every farthing which the organisation of their profession costs to an annual expenditure of upwards of sixty thousand pounds.

We fought hard for these two privileges incorporated in the 1919 Nurses Registration Act, and if we are deprived of them we become the sport of Fate.

THE NEW MINISTER OF HEALTH AND THE WHITE PAPER ON NATIONAL HEALTH.

We approve the unperturbed manner in which the new Minister of Health replies to questions in the House, and elsewhere, concerning the White Paper now in the offing dealing with a National Health Service. He requires time for consideration; of course he does, and we note he means to take it.

We must realise that an up-to-date National Health Service affects not only the people in their social environment, but thousands of skilled professional men and women who will have to agree to and administer it.

Speaking at a recent Meeting of the General Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, Mr. H. U. Willink, the Minister of Health, remarked: “The Council will not expect me to say very much to-day about the forthcoming White Paper. I hear it has been suggested that this Christmas is to be a White Paper Christmas. I am afraid that I shall not be quite in time in that respect because the one matter on which I came to a very early conclusion was this, that I am

under a duty to the people of this country to form my own conclusions so far as I can before I submit them to my colleagues. The matter is one of urgency, and it will be treated as such. . . . We hope that the proposals will be available quite early in the New Year, and we look forward then to a period of widespread discussion.”

The Medical Profession will realise that this liberal attitude of mind gives it hope of a just solution of its future status and liberty of action, and let us hope that the intelligent minority of the Nursing Profession who object to the grave injustice to their status, both professionally and financially, as incorporated in the Nurses Acts, for England and Wales and for Scotland, will not fail to place their considered opinion and just claims before the Minister of Health.

SUNSHINE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER.

After the ominous days of Mr. Churchill's illness, when the welfare of humanity seemed to hang in the balance, the following message, which was recently issued from 10, Downing Street, let loose a flood of hope and happiness.

THE MESSAGE.

“Now that I am leaving the place where I have been staying for ‘an unknown destination,’ after more than a fortnight's illness, I wish to express my deep gratitude to all who have sent me kind messages or otherwise helped me. I had planned to visit the Italian front as soon as the conferences were over, but on December 11 I felt so tired out that I had to ask General Eisenhower for a few days' rest before proceeding. This was accorded me in the most generous manner.

“The next day came the fever, and the day after, when the photographs showed that there was a shadow on one of my lungs, I found that everything had been foreseen by Lord Moran. Excellent nurses and the highest medical authorities in the Mediterranean arrived from all quarters as if by magic. This admirable M and B, from which I did not suffer any inconvenience, was used at the earliest moment, and after a week's fever the intruders were repulsed. I hope all our battles will be equally well conducted. I feel a good deal better than at any time since leaving England, though, of course, a few weeks in the sunshine are needed to restore my physical strength.

“I did not feel so ill in this attack as I did last February. The M and B, which I may also call Moran and Bedford, did the work most effectively. There is no doubt that pneumonia is a very different illness from what it was before this marvellous drug was discovered. I have not at any time had to relinquish my part in the direction of affairs, and there has been not the slightest delay in giving the decisions which were required from me. I am now able to transact business fully. I have a highly efficient nucleus staff and am in full daily correspondence with London, and though I shall be resting for a few weeks, I shall not be idle, provided, of course, that we do not have any setbacks.

“I thought that some of those who have been so kind as to inquire, or express themselves in friendly terms about me, would like to have this personal note from me, which they will please take as conveying my sincere thanks.”

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)