

"Cantab," writing in the *Daily Telegraph*, calls attention to the results of the April Preliminary State Examination held by the General Nursing Council, when the proportion of failures was exceptionally high.

"At one hospital in London he quotes, 21 out of 26 candidates failed in the written examination in anatomy, physiology and hygiene. All passed in the written and practical examination in nursing and first aid.

"These girls, many of whom have had two years' experience in hospital, had the disadvantage of studying through the February blitz. Now the conditions are obviously worse. Will the General Nursing Council examiner in anatomy and physiology still expect and exact a peace-time standard in theoretical subjects?"

"If, as in the case I have cited, 100 per cent. of the candidates pass the practical test and 80 per cent. fail the theoretical examination, it would appear that some revision of the examiner's marks is indicated, or a standard compatible with the conditions under which nurses are compelled to study in present-day London should be agreed upon by the Council."

There is but one remedy. The educational standard of candidates must be tested and qualify them for admission to a skilled profession. At present the demand for well-educated girls exceeds the supply, and girls of High School standard hesitate to enter a profession in which, through recent legislation, they will have to compete with a class who unfortunately have a very elementary education, and which we look forward to the new Education Act removing as time goes on.

The Nurses Act, 1943, hall-marking unqualified women, must be amended before we can hope for a sufficient supply of well-educated intelligent girls choosing nursing as their life's work, and the sooner the Nursing Schools realise this fact the better for all concerned. We speak after up-to-date inquiry. The removal of the "one portal to the Register" was, of course, the first fatal step to Avernus—promoted by the *Lancet*, determinedly manoeuvred by the Ministry of Health, and weakly agreed by the G.N.C.

The Minister of Health has reappointed the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind for a further period of three years. The Committee is constituted so as to afford representation to the Local Authorities concerned with the working of the Blind Persons Acts, and to Voluntary Associations for the Blind, as well as to organised blind workers.

The Committee will advise the Minister on matters relating to the Welfare of the Blind, including any question that may be specially referred to them by the Minister.

The blind have the warm sympathy of the Nursing profession who, in many directions, can ameliorate their disabilities and increase their happiness.

"We have been discussing what is termed the "Block System" of training now being tried out and advocated by certain hospitals, and hope to deal with it further in our next issue. The principle of teaching theory for terms relieving Student Nurses of ward work meanwhile, has certainly advantages, as physically weary girls

can ill assimilate instruction in theory, when they are exhausted.

It is not surprising to learn that from road accident figures published by the Ministry of War Transport, that casualties in April were 10 per cent. higher than for the same month before the war. During its 30 days 140 children (an average of nearly five a day) were killed.

An analysis of the figures shows:—

	April, 1944.	April, 1943.	Increase.
Deaths	567	396	171
Injured	9,930	8,358	1,572
Total	10,497	8,754	1,743

The 140 child fatalities make April, 1944, the worst month since July, 1941, and are 32 more than in April, 1943.

The reason for this holocaust is not far to seek: 1. Lack of control of traffic speed, which appears totally oblivious of the rights of the pedestrian. 2. Lack of parental control: our children deprived of the authority of their fathers; poor mothers overburdened in every direction, and our spirited little ones, with no fear, rushing into danger without caution. It would be interesting if the social position of the parents of these little martyrs could be published. We feel sure it would prove that the great majority were the children of the poor. Anyhow, it is time the ruthless rush of cars usually containing one pompous person should be compelled to lessen their speed.

#### NURSES IN NEED THROUGH WAR CONDITIONS.

It is good to know that Nurses suffering from war conditions have generous colleagues in the great Dominions, and they should communicate if in need to (1) the Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, which has received £1,000 from two married Nurses in South Africa to help colleagues in Great Britain; and (2) to the Royal College of Nursing, which has also received from South Africa £1,500 for the same purpose.

The Canadian Nurses' Association is still receiving contributions from its members and remitting these generous gifts to the Royal College for distribution. All Nurses working in the war, whether members of these organisations or not, are eligible for financial help, and they should not hesitate to apply for grants; the money has been most generously sent for their benefit.

#### WHAT ARE THE NURSES DOING?

What are nurses doing to instruct the Government that women be given a place in the post-war peace councils? We fear but little. They should write to their Members of Parliament and urge that they support the demand. We are glad to note that the National Council of Women of Great Britain have down a resolution for discussion at the Annual Conference in October on this matter. The thousands of men who are fighting and dying for their countries are of our flesh and blood.

Mrs. Rebecca Strong, O.B.E., who recently passed away, aged 100 years, left personal estate of £5,843.

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