

the heading "Duties of Matrons," we fear that that official would be deprived of essential power to enforce her duties, as the "Supervisor or director of nursing studies from the Training College for Nurses should have the right to visit the wards of the hospital to see the type of instruction given to student nurses, and in consultation with the Matron, suggest improvements or modifications."

We venture to enquire, as student nurses are to be relieved of all domestic duties, who is going to perform them? Certainly not the girls who are already planning in thousands to avoid soiling their fingers by entering domestic service.

We are, however, a very unsafe opinion on this point, we just love domestic labour; dusting, polishing, making our surrounds gleam and shine—we detest dirt!

Uniformity in the training of nursery students is being widely urged, and the policy of late Ministers of Health and Education decided to introduce a national nursery certificate. Examination for the award of this certificate would be conducted by a joint board on which would be represented the Ministries of Health and Education, the Royal Sanitary Institute, the National Society of Children's Nurseries, the Nursery Schools' Association, the Association of Nursery Training Colleges, and the Associated Council of Children's Homes.

Why not a representative of Registered Nurses, who would presumably be best qualified to practically organise the scheme and award the certificate?

The monotony and shortage of food has aroused keen interest in the home of all classes during the war, and now that we are threatened by the Labour Government with still further restriction, it is having one good result, especially in our hospitals. King Edward's Hospital Fund for London has issued a memorandum to assist in overcoming defects in hospital feeding which have been much criticised of late. It amplifies a previous memorandum published in 1934 on hospital diet, and is issued by the diet committee of the fund. Copies of the memorandum, which is most instructive and valuable, can be obtained, price 9d., from Geo. Barber and Son, Limited, Furnival Street, E.C.4, who have published it for King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.

Our appeal under the heading "Bread and Marg." has brought us several sympathetic letters. That old nurses may not get enough to eat arouses sympathy upon the part of colleagues—worthy of their salt—and the difficulty of housing and caring for such colleagues makes one long to take part in a scheme for their comfort.

One letter however arouses a feeling of indignation—"Why fuss?" writes an Office Sister. "These old people are a passing phase. We are all now being quite well paid and can save for old age—in a few years all these poor old dears will have died out." Let us hope they will not be replaced by "Office machines"!

We have read reams of criticism of the Assistant Nurse question during the past month, all of a wobbly and indeterminate nature.

No impression whatever is made on our considered opinion. The nursing of the sick demands a basic standard of efficiency, and an ever advancing knowledge, and it is an impossible task to attempt to stultify knowledge.

To imagine that restrictive schemes of training can be enforced is nonsense, or that girls, no matter what their social class and standard of education, can be placed in a pen and remain there is equally absurd.

The semi-trained, second-class Assistant Nurse is doomed—and rightly so. Employers with the best intentions in the world are attempting a species of slavery. Women will not submit to it. All serfery is demoralising and it must be crushed out. Thus the Assistant Nurse and other restricted workers will vanish. We need only the most efficient, skilled women to care for the sick.

#### "THE NAVY IS HERE."

Those of us who held Silvia Vian in affection have naturally followed the heroic career of her brother, Vice-Admiral Sir Philip Vian, and we are not surprised to learn from the *Daily Sketch*, "Now that the war is over a 'League Table' of Heroes can be compiled, with Vice-Admiral Sir Philip Louis Vian—Vian of the Cossack—at the top with seven decorations won since September, 1939.

At the age of 50 he has won more wartime awards than any other sailor, soldier or airman in the British armed forces.

In July last year Sir Philip was awarded the K.C.B. for 'distinguished service in the planning and execution of the successful Allied landings in Normandy.'

This brought his total up to seven. They include K.B.E., awarded in March, 1942, "for resolution and daring in a brilliant action against strong enemy forces, which resulted in the safe passage to Malta of an important convoy," the D.S.O. with two Bars, a Mention in Dispatches and the U.S. Legion of Merit."

#### EXTRACT FROM JOURNAL OF THE R.A.M.G., JULY, 1945.

19th General Hospital.—past and present members of this Unit are advised that an Old Comrades' Association is being formed.

Will any Officer, Nursing Officer, Warrant Officer, or other Rank who is interested and is, or has been, on the strength of the unit please send a postcard giving name, and present address to Colonel James O'Grady, Stoneacre, Swinton, Manchester?

#### BELGIAN NURSES' VISIT.

Twelve Belgian nursing sister-tutors are due to arrive in Britain on September 17th for a three weeks' visit arranged by the British Council, 3, Hanover Street, W.1, in collaboration with the Royal College of Nursing.

Each of the six groups of two into which the party will divide will spend a week in a London voluntary L.C.C. or Middlesex County Council hospital and a week visiting hospitals in one of the following places: Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Oxford, Cardiff, Carshalton. They will also visit nursing institutions and health centres.

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