

Women's Voluntary Services were considering a scheme for making available greater domestic help in the hospitals so as to relieve nurses from this work.

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The most important information this statement contains is in its final promise "to look into the permanent conditions of service in the profession."

This is the first time for years that Registered Nurses in a subordinate position have had the courage to personally demand justice for the sick and humane conditions of service—and have been met with justice and courtesy.

We congratulate the valorous quartette from the West Middlesex County Hospital. Let their colleagues of which there are thousands serving the sick in the same Service, come forward and support the dauntless quartette, whose names will be long remembered when Mr. Aneurin Bevan, the Minister of Health has acted with courageous intelligence and had the Nurses Act, 1943, swept from the Statute Book of this Realm and just legislation substituted for the safety of the sick and the honour of the Nursing profession. He has a unique opportunity for the promotion of humane legislation. We wish him success.

COLONEL CHOW MEI-YU

SPEAKS ON NURSING IN CHINA.

The Matrons-in-Chief of the Services—Navy, Army and Air Force—promoted a most interesting social gathering at the United Nursing Services' Club, 34, Cavendish Square, W.1., on Tuesday, September 4th, to meet Colonel Chow Mei-Yu, Principal of the Chinese Army Nursing College, and Director of the Chinese Nurses' Association, affiliated to the International Council of Nurses in 1922.

The guests were received by Mrs. Wilkinson, Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S., and Miss Gladys Taylor, Matron-in-Chief, Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service, who introduced the guests to Colonel Chow Mei-Yu, a little lady wearing khaki who spoke English without an accent.

The guests, women well known throughout the nursing world, included Miss Effie Taylor, President, International Council of Nurses, and Miss Isabel Stewart, of Teacher's College, New York, Dame Katharine Jones, R.R.C., Chair of the Club, Mrs. Maynard Carter, League of Red Cross Societies, several hon. members of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Founder I.C.N. A refreshing tea was served to some 60 guests, after which Mrs. Wilkinson introduced Colonel Chow in a sympathetic speech, who in reporting nursing progress in China, greatly interested the audience.

Nursing Conditions in China.

Colonel Chow Mei-Yu, who wore khaki uniform, in opening her very interesting address, said:—

"Allow me to take this opportunity to express sincere thanks for all the hospitality I have received and the opportunity to visit hospitals and nurse training schools. Your accomplishments have been the result of energy, which will give me confidence for the development of nursing in China.

"The nursing profession in China is young in comparison with other nations. Just before the Sino-Japanese war of 1937 we had only about 6,000 registered nurses, and to distribute them amongst a population of 400,000,000 you will realise our difficulties; but in spite of them the nurses have worked in urban areas, in rural districts, and some in institutions.

"There are about 200 registered nursing schools in the whole country. With the help of foreign nurses (mostly

British and American missionaries) the Nurses' Association of China was founded in 1909. This organisation has laid the foundation stone for the nursing profession in China. The functions of this Association is to unite the nurses together, to uplift nursing education and the profession in China.

"During the years between 1912 and 1935 this organisation, with the co-operation and support of all the members, has been able to support its aims firmly and successfully. After 1935 the Government took over the educational responsibilities in nursing, which is its duty; since then the Nurses' Association of China serves as a regular professional organisation.

"The term of training for nurses in China averages three and a half years. The entrance requirements are that candidates must be 18 years of age and have completed the high school term of education.

"The entrance examinations are oral and written. When the students complete their studies and practice in the school, they are allowed to sit for the National examination, which is held twice a year by the Ministry of Education. If the students pass their examination successfully, the school authorities are notified by the Ministry of Education that they can issue diplomas to the students and at the same time these names will be forwarded to the National Health Administration for a licence.

"Since the war there has been a great demand for nurses. Many schools in enemy-occupied China were not able to function. We met the need by increasing nursing schools in interior China and by instituting a three-months' course in nursing aid under the Army Medical Field Service Schools—there are three schools, Army Medical, Army Nursing and Medical Activities, the Army Nursing School being responsible for training the regular army nurses and nursing aids.

"During the last eight years of war Chinese nurses have performed their duties admirably, working amongst refugees, war orphans and all kinds of medical organisations.

"Due to the rapid movement of the troops, nurses have to move along with them all the time, having to travel mostly on foot through the roadless areas—as the roads were destroyed to prevent the advance of the enemies' mechanised troops. Because of a shortage of food in some areas, the army nurse had only one meal a day. In the cold winter months the nurses' hands were covered with chilblains because there were no heating facilities in the ward; but the nurses carried on cheerfully and attended their patients as though conditions were normal."

Colonel Chow Mei-Yu ended her most interesting address by remarking: "We all feel so happy that the ordeal of war is at an end. Once again peace is restored to the earth. Let us hold the peace for ever and ever."

Miss Gladys Taylor thanked Colonel Chow warmly for her address, which had greatly interested all her colleagues present.

We congratulate the three Nursing Services upon their united invitation to this interesting social function and hope that at some early date they will form part of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, and thus add their prestige and support to the evolution of international nursing organisations.

We have always held the Chinese people in sincere veneration, as the most artistic people in the world. No other nation has ever approached the designs and splendour of their porcelain, and as an ardent collector of armorial and *famille rose*, no works of art have given us the thrill that the possession of the tea service of Harley, Earl of Oxford, and other historic persons have done. Alas! for the moment these gems are hidden away in crates below ground—saved by Providence from destruction.

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