

Every Sister should be a skilled dietitian. We remember the succulent and tender chops and steaks cooked under supervision of the "Old Sisters" in ward kitchens 60 years ago at Bart's and how the patients' convalescence responded to them. Then medical science had its "doots," and a new and less stimulating menu was substituted. How the class of patient treated in those days deplored the change, and more than one platter of macaroni pudding was flung out of the window! "The Old Sisters" continued calmly to roast goslings and toast macaroni cheese for their own mid-day consumption, an added grievance when the succulent fumes penetrated into the ward!

A young friend being trained at a London hospital considers what she calls "tray duty" waste of time. She works in a paying patients' ward where there are upwards of half a dozen persons. This is her routine: on duty at 7 a.m., prepare seven breakfast trays in ward kitchen at 8 a.m., carry them along corridor to seven patients. Remove trays to kitchen. Carry tray with hot milk or beef tea to ward for seven patients at 11 a.m. Carry seven lunch trays to ward at 1 p.m. Remove trays. Carry seven tea trays to ward at 4 p.m. Carry seven excellent dinners to patients at 7 p.m. Remove trays.

Between meals all the ward work and nursing has to be fitted in! and Sister and medical staff attended to. "I like helping sick people, and in a large general ward am quite happy," this student nurse reports, "but I do not wish to be a waitress."

The Queen's Nurses' Magazine announces the retirement of Miss I. C. Dewar, Superintendent for Scotland. It reports that it was with great regret the Scottish Council of the Institute learned of the approaching retirement of Miss Isabella C. Dewar from the position of Superintendent.

Miss Dewar's connection with the Institute has covered a period of 39 years. During her term of office the work in Scotland has shown marked developments. The past five-and-a-half years of war had been a particularly heavy and trying period on account of the decrease in the number of Nurses entering for District training, and of the difficulty in supplying the needs of the affiliated Associations. Miss Dewar has, however, faced these problems with great courage, and during her whole term of office her constant thought had been for the welfare of the Nurses.

Miss Isa Hamilton, Superintendent, Glasgow District Nursing Association, has been appointed to succeed Miss Dewar, and will take up office within the next few months.

The American Nurses' Association touches the spot.

THE NEED IS GREAT.

I am the nurse.

But I am so few and he . . .  
your wounded man . . .  
is legion! . . .

Add your hands to mine  
women, mothers of men . . .  
lest victory hang  
like a mocking mask  
Upon our Nation's honour!

## THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

A Meeting of the Council of The British College of Nurses, Ltd., was held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on April 19th, at 2.30 p.m.

Prayers having been read by the Secretary, Miss A. Stewart Bryson, the death of Miss Susan A. Villiers, F.B.C.N., member of the Council, was reported with sincere sorrow by the President, the Council standing.

### Minutes.

The Minutes were confirmed and signed.

### Correspondence.

A voluminous correspondence was dealt with, principally with the de-grading of Nursing Standards by the Minister of Health in placing untrained "Christian Science Nurses" who are Faith Healers on the Roll of Assistant Nurses, the Nurses Act, 1943, providing that the Minister has absolute power to define what is and who are nurses of the sick.

Further correspondence with Sir Waldron Smithers, M.P., who continues to instruct Members of Parliament with the danger to the sick of absolute unprofessional control of the Nursing Profession. Advice given by Sir Waldron Smithers, M.P., was placed before the Council and received with gratitude.

### Appeal to Medical Organisations.

The following letter and note on the State Registration of Nurses had, as directed, been addressed to the Presidents of the leading medical organisations:—

SIR,—As you are, no doubt, aware, a Nurses Act, 1943, drafted by two laymen—the late Minister of Health, Mr. Ernest Brown, and Mr. Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour—was rushed through Parliament in 1943 without consultation with either the Medical or Nursing Professions. This ill-considered legislation provides for a de-grading class of Assistant Nurses whose professional qualifications, if any, are defined by the Minister of Health, so that if he decides to recognise a person as a nurse he has the power to do so.

Quite recently it has become known that the present Minister of Health, Mr. Henry U. Willink, K.C., M.P., has placed upon the Assistant Nurses Roll a number of "Christian Science Nurses"—women who believe only in Faith Healing, and who repudiate medical direction, and who are, in the opinion of Registered Nurses, a serious danger to sick persons they attend.

At a Meeting of the Council of this College of Nurses, held on March 22nd last, it was decided to communicate on this matter with the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of Surgeons, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the Society of the Medical Officers of Health, the General Medical Council, and the British Medical Association, and invite their help in opposing the enrolment of "Christian Science Nurses."

The following organisations of Nurses are opposed to the action of the Minister of Health in this particular:—

The General Nursing Council for England and Wales;  
The Royal British Nurses' Association;  
The Royal College of Nursing;  
The British College of Nurses, Ltd.

My Council earnestly petitions that your powerful Professional organisation will take action on this matter.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

ALICE STEWART BRYSON, Secretary

### Note.

The following "Note on the State Registration of Nurses" was enclosed with the letter:—

1887. Organisation of Trained Nurses by the State requested by a group of Hospital Matrons.

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