

QUEEN'S INSTITUTE OF DISTRICT NURSING.

The Annual Report of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing for 1944, contains as usual a summary of very useful work accomplished.

In theory we believe in self-government, making, as it does, for conscientious conduct, but it would be difficult without the participation of all classes to organise the fine service of the Queen's Institute—of which Queen Mary is Patron—and direct representatives of Nurses and Midwives on the Council of the Institute would bring the constitution up to date.

The Report.

The Report is full of interest and its expert experience has much to teach the Ministry of Health. At a recent Conference of the National Council of Women, to which the Institute is affiliated, the following Resolution was carried by an overwhelming majority.

"This Conference of the N.C.W. welcomes the intention of H.M. Government to establish a comprehensive National Health Service, but urges that more definite recognition be given to the Voluntary Domiciliary Nursing Service by assignment to the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, with appropriate Treasury Grant, of the specific responsibility of the training of district nurses and the maintenance of their standards by inspection, it being understood that County and Borough Councils should contract therewith for general nursing services."

The revised district training scheme has been completed and has come into force. It will ensure uniformity of the training throughout the country.

Midwifery Work.

The report on the Midwifery work continues to be satisfactory. The number of cases undertaken in 1943 was 84,459, and the midwives acted as maternity nurses to a further 42,539. The maternal mortality was 1.38 per 1,000 live births—1.35 per total births under the first category and 1.67 per 1,000 births in the latter. This low figure has been attained in spite of many difficulties largely due to war-time conditions, not the least being the shortage of midwives and of adequate domestic help in the patients' homes.

Special consideration has been given to the report issued by the College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists on which comments were invited. The Institute gave general approval to the plan for a complete National Maternity Service, but laid special emphasis on the necessity of medical calls from midwives being taken only by medical practitioners with special experience in obstetrics and on the need for co-operation between Midwives and Health Visitors. It was also recommended that in such a service provision should be made for mobile units in rural areas to ensure adequate ante- and post-natal care.

The survey of District Nursing for 1943 showed that a district nursing service was within reach of 98.7 of the population. It is obvious that several thousands more nurses will be required to meet the future demands likely to be made upon the service.

The Council wishes to pay tribute to the great courage and tenacity shown by midwives and nurses who have remained at their posts in the vulnerable areas.

A special message of thanks is also due to the Staff of the Institute who during a most trying year, have carried on their work often under great difficulties.

Finance.

A number of Funds are organised in financial support of the Institute and it is a marvel that so much good work

is done at so small a cost, especially as it operates in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

The Institute is situated at 57, Lower Belgrave Street, London, S.W., from which address information can be obtained.

QUEEN'S INSTITUTE MIDWIVES.

At a meeting of the Council of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing held recently at the offices of the institute, 57, Lower Belgrave Street, under the chairmanship of Lord Aberdare, the report on midwifery work for the past year was received with appreciation. This showed that midwives working in connection with the Queen's Institute had attended 85,153 cases as midwives (*i.e.*, with no doctor in attendance for the confinement) with a maternal mortality of 1 per 1,000 live births—the lowest ever recorded. The midwives acting as maternity nurses had attended a further 44,545 cases. A tribute was offered to all the midwives for this outstanding result in the sixth year of war with all its attendant difficulties.

NEW GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT.

Miss Evelyn Maud Crothers, S.R.N., S.C.M., has been appointed General Superintendent of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, in succession to Miss Mercy Wilms-hurst, O.B.E., S.R.N., who is retiring.

Miss Crothers was trained at St. Mary Abbots Hospital, London, and holds the Certificate for Social Studies at Bedford College, University of London. She has been Superintendent of the Worcester County Nursing Association, and has also held the post of Inspector of County Nursing Associations in England and Wales, and for Northern Ireland.

The office of General Superintendent of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing is one of the most influential in the Nursing World, coming into touch as it does, with nurses and midwives devoting their lives to the health service of the people.

THE PASSING BELL.

NURSE M'CAMMON.

It is indeed encouraging to read in the *Irvine Valley News and Galston Supplement*, deep appreciation of the work of Nurse M'Cammon, a Queen's Nurse in Galston, N.B., who recently passed to her rest.

As a District Nurse she had been employed by the Galston Nursing Association for twenty years, and it is said of her that "she was the epitome of all that one would expect to find in a member of her profession."

In 1942 she was awarded the Long Service Medal of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing.

In Erskine Church the Rev. James Gillespie, B.D., made the following reference to the passing of Nurse M'Cammon:—

"We in Galston have seen for years the beautiful life of Nurse M'Cammon. To her the Saviour was real and an abiding presence, and the pre-eminent force in her life. For His sake she followed the footsteps of the great company of the sisterhood of nurses.

"She was the Florence Nightingale of Galston. A ministering angel, serving and toiling day and night, in cold and heat, and went quietly with supreme ability about her innumerable deeds of mercy. The great debt we all owe to her can never be repaid.

"Her happy smile, her cheering presence, and her life of daily sacrifice, will remain as an inspiration to all who knew her, and to whom she brought ease and healing in their hours of pain and weakness.

"We thank God for the precious gift He gave to Galston in His minister of mercy, Nurse M'Cammon."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)