

"The problem has been met by increasing facilities for diagnosis and treatment, by plain speaking and intensive propaganda to educate the public about these diseases and the importance of treatment promptly by increasing the number of social workers employed by local authorities to trace, contact and to follow up those who discontinue treatment prematurely, and by the enactment of a Defence Regulation 33B to deal with the hard core of recalcitrant spreaders of infection who refuse to undergo examination and any necessary treatment. It is obvious, however, that much still remains to be done.

"Fortunately in this war we have had more potent medicaments, notably in the sulphonamides for gonorrhœa, and now in penicillin, which is effective against both gonorrhœa and syphilis; so that infectivity has been checked more quickly."

#### The Blood Transfusion Service.

The Blood Transfusion Service is described as "one of the most useful and best organised of all war time services. . . . It is intended that the service shall be maintained in peace time as a function of the Ministry of Health."

#### Maternity and Child Welfare.

The administration of analgesics by midwives is constantly demanded but more thorough enquiry into the available methods, their efficacy and safety is overdue. The causes of premature and stillbirths demand large scale investigation.

#### Need for Hostels for Old People.

Other useful lessons were learned from evacuation—the provision of hostels for the aged and infirm, for instance, having shown that success or failure in dealing with this type of patient turns almost entirely on the care and devotion of the nursing staff, and that "similar provision has a definite permanent place in the care of this type of patient after the war."

#### Achievements of Medical Officers of Health.

"The war has meant the interruption everywhere of cherished plans for development of the peace time health services. The real work of the medical officer of health has had to take second place to the organisation of emergency services. Under aerial bombardment by day and night, by bombing planes, flying bombs, rockets, and long-range artillery these services were brought up to a high pitch of efficiency. Yet the health services have been maintained and in many ways have advanced and the credit for this achievement should be given to those who have been so largely responsible for it—the medical officers of health."

#### Advances in Therapeutics.

The war has seen important advances in therapeutics, notably in the use of the sulphonamides and penicillin. Of the new insecticides D.D.T. and Gammexane, it is stated that their discovery "may well have greater and more lasting effects on the health of the human race than any other in the last six years."

#### More Health Education Called for.

Health educational activities have increased during the war. "Health education in this country has been developed largely through the service provided by the Central Council for Health Education and has therefore varied with the interest taken by local authorities. During the war, central campaigns for particular purposes have been undertaken by the Ministry and greater use has been made, both by the Ministry and by the Central Council, of films, broadcasts, national poster displays and Press conferences. Nevertheless, this country still lags behind others in the use of modern methods of public education in health, and war-time experience would appear to justify considerable extension of this essential service."

## THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

A meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the offices of the Council, 23, Portland Place, London, W.1, on September 27th, 1946. Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., Chairman, presided.

#### Death of Chairman, General Nursing Council for Scotland

The Chairman reported the death of Sir John Lorne MacLeod, Chairman of the General Nursing Council for Scotland since 1921, and the Council stood in silence in his memory.

#### Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

The Chairman reported that the Conference between members of Council, representatives from the General Nursing Council for Scotland and the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council for Northern Ireland was successful, and the Report before the Council was agreed.

#### Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £2,000 for weekly salaries, £1,000 for postage, £40 for insurance stamps and £20 for petty cash were allowed.

Estimates for stationery to the value of £1,403 11s. 9d. were accepted.

It was agreed that the fee to be paid for admission to the part of the Register for Mental Nurses by those nurses holding the certificate of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association be £2 2s.

#### Registration.

On the recommendation of the Registration Committee, it was agreed that the letter "(a)" be placed in the Register against the name of each nurse who receives from the Council a Certificate of Registration as a Registered Sister Tutor, and that an explanatory reference be inserted at the beginning of the Register.

It was agreed that the names of 103 nurses who had hitherto failed to pay their retention fee, and now wished their names reincluded in the Register, should be reincluded.

#### Education and Examination.

It was agreed that the date by which application must be made for recognition as a Registered Sister Tutor with existing qualifications be extended by one year to December 31st, 1947, and that the necessary amendment be made to the Rules at present before the Minister of Health and submitted to the Minister for approval.

Schemes of affiliation were withdrawn; hospitals were provisionally approved as Complete Training Schools for Male Nurses; schemes of affiliation for the training of Male Nurses approved; approval of Hospitals as training schools for General Nurses agreed; and Pre-Nursing Courses approved.

#### Mental Nursing.

It was reported that consideration has been given to matters relating to the handing over of examinations of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association to the Council; and the Committee is in agreement that the fee of £2 2s. be paid by nurses holding the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association for admission to the part of the Register for Mental Nurses.

#### General Purposes.

It was reported that equipment had been purchased to the value of £622 16s. 3d.; and it was agreed that an estimate of £61 be accepted for the removal of contents from the Assistant Nurse and Uniform Departments to No. 17 Portland Place, and for the transfer of Accounts

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)