

## HIGHER SALARIES FOR NURSES.

The Ministry of Health announce that the Rushcliffe Committee have decided that nurses shall receive higher salaries, including Ward Sisters, Staff Nurses, and Assistant Nurses, and we beg to congratulate Registered members of the Profession on this long-delayed recognition of their invaluable services which came into operation on January 1st, 1946.

The new salary scales, with the old given for comparison, are as follows:—

**WARD SISTERS.**—Old: £130, rising by £10 per year to £180; £20 increment after 10 years' service on this scale; emoluments £100. New: £160, rising by £10 per year to £220; £20 increment after five years' service at £220 per annum, followed by another £20 increment after another five years; emoluments £120.

**STAFF NURSE (on General Part of Register).**—Old: £100, rising by £5 per year to £140; emoluments £90. New: £120, rising by £10 per year to £160; £10 increment after five years' service at £160 per annum, followed by another £10 increment after another five years; emoluments £100.

**ENROLLED ASSISTANT NURSE.**—Old: £75, rising by £5 per year to £95; £10 increments after 10 and 15 years respectively on the scale; emoluments £90. New (including those previously in Categories C or D who successfully apply to the General Nursing Council for admission to the Roll): £90, rising by £5 per year to £120; then £5 increments every two years to a maximum of £160; emoluments £100.

**ASSISTANT NURSE (Category C or D).**—Old: £65, rising by annual increments of £5 to £85, with two further increments of £10 after 10 and 15 years respectively; emoluments £90. New: Intermediate Assistant Nurses, £75, rising by annual increments of £5 to £100; emoluments £90.

In sanatoria, tuberculosis hospitals, and other hospitals where the major part of the accommodation is for the treatment of tuberculosis, and in the tuberculosis wards of hospitals, each of the above scales shall, as at present, be increased by £10 throughout.

The estimated cost of the increases is roughly £500,000 a year to begin with, rising to £1,000,000 a year from April 1st, 1947.

It will be noted that Assistant Nurses, many of whom are not trained on an efficient basis, are excessively overpaid when compared with the remuneration of the highly trained Registered Nurses, whose efficient standard of training will, we hope, in the near future be universally adopted, and the helpless poor protected from the inefficient standard now provided for them by ignorant public authorities.

The salaries of Registered Nurses in the past have been by no means superfluous for their needs, and liberty of speech and action has thus been suppressed. The most precious asset which money commands is liberty of action, and this for the future should enable the Registered Nurse to safeguard not only her own professional convictions, but the lives of her patients.

We very heartily congratulate our colleagues upon the liberty of action which their increase of salaries will secure to them.

## NEW SCALES FOR NURSES' SALARIES IN SCOTLAND.

New scales of salaries for Ward Sisters, Staff Nurses, and Assistant Nurses in Scotland will be paid from January 1st. They have been recommended by the Scottish Nurses Salaries Committee and accepted by the Secretary of State for Scotland. Examples of the increased scales for Ward Sisters, Staff Nurses, and Assistant Nurses are:—

**WARD SISTERS.**—Old Scale, £130 to £200 in the 16th year; emoluments, £100. New Scale, £160 to £260 in the 18th year; emoluments, £120.

**STAFF NURSES ON GENERAL PART OF REGISTER.**—Old Scale, £100 by £10 to £120; emoluments, £90. New Scale, £120 to £180 in the 16th year; emoluments, £100.

**ENROLLED ASSISTANT NURSES.**—Old Scale, £65 by £5 to £95; emoluments, £90. New Scale, £80 to £160 in the 23rd year; emoluments, £100.

The scales are increased by £10 throughout for tuberculosis nurses.

## AN IMPORTANT POINT.

The following letter has been addressed to the Minister of Health by an experienced Registered Nurse. We support her suggestion that the matter should receive his consideration.

To the RIGHT HON. ANEURIN BEVAN, M.P., *Minister of Health.*

**NURSING PROFESSION.—NON-RESIDENT ALLOWANCE.**

SIR,—As a member of the nursing profession for the past 25 years, having experience from all angles; as a trainee and a teacher of nurses (fully qualified), I much appreciate the recent improvements in conditions and salaries for the fully-qualified woman. If the goal to be reached can be made equal to that of other professions, such as school teachers, I am quite sure more suitable candidates for our profession would be forthcoming. It still, however, does fall short of such a standard.

One recommendation of your estimable Charter mentions the use of more non-resident trained staff. May I bring to your notice that although from a superannuation point of view, the emoluments for residents and non-residents are equable and fair (as considered, I believe, by the Rushcliffe and Taylor committees). When, however, it comes to the practical use of £120 per annum—I quote a non-resident Tutor's emoluments—there is no equality, the £120 (allowance in lieu of accommodation) being liable to income tax.

The value of accommodation and living if it is to cover anything approaching the standard of living of the other previously mentioned professions would appear to require revaluation in view of the incidence of taxation which is payable by non-residents, and not by residents.

I would be very appreciative if these facts could have your consideration.—I am, Sir, Yours faithfully,

ALICE M. BROWNLOW, D.N. (London), S.R.N., S.C.M.

## ATHLONE SUB-COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON MENTAL NURSING.

The report of the above Sub-Committee provides for important developments in mental nursing, and the nursing of the mentally defective, and we shall devote space to it at an early date. The Sub-Committee are not in favour of the introduction of the grade of Assistant Nurse which they consider would be even more dangerous in the treatment of the patient than it is in general nursing.

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