

Assistant Nurses. It was resolved that these should be S.E.A.N. (State Enrolled Assistant Nurse)."

There is little doubt that the Assistant Nurse and her promoters thoroughly understand the art of everything for nothing.

So far they have been permitted to use the Headquarters *paid* for by the Registered Nurses as their professional Headquarters, thus availing themselves of the prestige for which we have paid.

Miss Diana Hartley, the salaried Secretary, is a Registered Nurse and a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association—the first Royal organisation of Registered Nurses in Great Britain. Naturally, we strongly object to the constant association with any Registered Nurse engaged in undermining our professional status, as the Assistant Nurse does (soon to have the prefix "State Enrolled" added to her title).

Unless Registered Nurses, inspired by professional conscience, rouse themselves and demand justice, they will cease to exist.

They should demand:—

(1) That Regulation 19 of the Nurses Act, 1943, be abrogated *at once*, so that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales cannot use their registration fees to promote insufficiently trained women to compete with them professionally.

2. That the expenditure of the G.N.C. during the past three years shall be audited and printed showing the balance-sheets of—(1) the Registered Nurses, and (2) of the Assistant Nurses.

It is to be regretted that the Minister of Health has not insisted that financial justice should have materialised.

Our advice to Miss Hartley is either to loyally support the status of a Registered member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, which in joining she undertook to do, or to cease her constant use of its environment.

INCREASED SALARIES FOR MALE NURSES.

The Minister of Health has welcomed the suggestion that male nurses employed in hospitals, public assistance institutions, sanatoria and tuberculosis hospitals or hospitals mainly concerned with the treatment of this disease, should receive an increase in their salaries.

The old minimum weekly salary is increased by 14s. for all charge or head nurses in hospitals or public assistance institutions, and by 9s. for staff nurses.

The Minister of Health has announced that half the extra cost will be borne by the Exchequer.

THE PASSING BELL.

MISS MARY WINMILL, F.B.C.N.

It is with sincere regret that we learn of the passing of Miss Mary Winmill, Fellow of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., on May 4th, at Worthing, at the age of 81.

Miss Winmill received her training at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and in her distinguished career held various administrative posts.

Finally as Matron for many years, of Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton, proved an able administrator in its organisation as a Training School for children's nursing and orthopaedy work.

Typical of the enlightened period of her time she was a staunch supporter of State Registration for nurses and for the maintenance of the highest ethical standards of nursing.

It is indeed sad that one by one these devoted pioneers are passing, much to the detriment of the nursing profession.

RESEARCH INTO THE COMMON COLD.

SPECIAL UNIT SET UP: STUDENTS AS VOLUNTEERS.

"A Common Cold Research Unit" is being established by the Medical Research Council and Ministry of Health, and will start work in July. It will be housed at the Harvard Hospital, near Salisbury, which was built and equipped in 1941, and given to the Ministry of Health by Harvard University and the American Red Cross as a place for research into communicable diseases.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Health and the Medical Research Council recently says that the problem of the common cold is a particularly complex one, made more difficult because, apart from chimpanzees, which are unsatisfactory for experimental purposes, it has not yet proved possible to study it in animals.

Progress towards the discovery of effective means of preventing a number of other diseases has not been made until some way of observing the disease in animals became available. For example, an effective vaccine against yellow fever became possible only when rhesus monkeys, and later mice, were found to be susceptible to the virus of the disease. Similarly, not until it was discovered that ferrets were susceptible to influenza virus was any progress made with the study of influenza. Therefore, the first objective on the present investigations into the common cold is to find a susceptible animal or, better still, some other laboratory technique which will permit a scientific approach to the problem.

As a check on their laboratory studies, workers at the National Institute of Medical Research will, at least for the time being, require to test on human volunteers the cold-producing activities of materials they are studying. These tests, due to start in July, will be carried out at the Harvard Hospital.

The volunteers will for the time being be drawn from men and women students at the universities. First they will be isolated until it is certain that they are free from infection. Then, after a few days' quarantine, their noses will be sprayed with material to see whether or not it contains a virus. While these observations are being made—for a period of ten to fourteen days in all—the volunteers will be out of contact with the outside world and each other except that, to obviate the boredom of solitary confinement, they will normally live together in pairs. Isolation will not involve complete loss of freedom, for the volunteers will be allowed to move about the countryside around the hospital, provided they avoid all human contacts, and will live in restful and comfortable holiday conditions. Volunteers are already being recruited from among university students. If more are needed later, an appeal will be made through suitable organisations. Volunteers must be carefully selected, because special qualities are needed and an exact discipline must be maintained. For this reason the Medical Research Council is selecting its own recruits, and applications from the general public cannot be entertained.

Progress towards the solution of the many problems which face the medical scientists undertaking this research work is likely to be slow, and it would be unwise to expect any spectacular advance, at any rate in the near future.

A WISE APPOINTMENT.

Sir Ernest Graham-Little, M.P., has been re-elected for eleventh consecutive time to represent medical graduates of Convocation on the Senate of London University.

Sir Ernest Graham-Little is one of the few eminent medical men who have taken an intelligent and sympathetic interest in Nursing as a profession. We can only wish that other members of the Medical Profession would study the Nursing question, which vitally affects the administration of their professional directions.

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