

SPECIAL COURSES FOR EX-SERVICE NURSING ORDERLIES.

TRAINING FOR STATE REGISTRATION.

The Ministry of Health is arranging special training courses of a year's duration for men and women who have gained high nursing qualifications in the Services, to fit them for sitting for the examinations for State Registration.

The only persons eligible will be Class I. Nursing Orderlies and Members in the Army, leading sick berth attendants in the Navy and leading aircraftsmen and aircraftswomen in the trade of Nursing Orderly in the Royal Air Force who have taken certain Service examinations and have had at least two years' ward experience under the supervision of trained nurses.

In peace-time holders of these qualifications would normally have obtained a certificate allowing them to sit for the State examinations without further training; but, under war conditions, the award of these certificates has largely lapsed, and the present arrangements are designed to fill the gap.

Accepted candidates will be required to pass the normal Preliminary and Final examinations of the General Nursing Council. The scheme is not yet in operation, but an announcement will be made in due course giving further particulars and the address to which applications and enquiries should be sent.

RELAXATION OF CONTROLS AFFECTING MALE AND FEMALE NURSES, MIDWIVES, MALE RADIOGRAPHERS AND PHYSIOTHERAPISTS.

We are informed by the Ministry of Labour and National Service that as from June 20th, 1946, the present statutory controls under which the distribution of nurses (male and female) and midwives has been regulated will cease to operate. It will no longer be necessary for employing authorities to consult the Ministry of Labour and National Service before engaging staff for nursing or midwifery or obtaining recruits to train in these professions. Similarly nurses and midwives or persons seeking to train as such are free to take up appointments or training otherwise than through the Nursing Appointments Offices. In addition, State Registered Nurses and fully trained midwives will not in future be required on becoming qualified to give a year's special service. In consequence of these changes in the situation, the co-operation of employing authorities in notifying the termination of employment of nurses and midwives will no longer be necessary.

Restrictions on the engagement of male radiographers and physiotherapists in the age group 18-30 inclusive will also come to an end.

The removal of these controls does not mean that all persons in the classes specified above are necessarily free to leave their present employment. If, for example, they are in employment which remains subject to control such as the Essential Work Orders or the Control of Employment (Civil Servants) Order, they must obtain the permission of the appropriate authority before leaving. Further, men who on leaving employment in nursing wish to take up other employment which is still subject to the Control of Engagement Orders must obtain that employment through a local office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service or through an Employment Agency approved for the purpose.

The Nursing Appointments Offices will continue to be at the service of employing authorities desiring assistance in filling vacancies for trained or untrained nursing staff and will make all possible efforts within the resources at their disposal to meet their needs, including the circulation of vacancies as necessary to other offices throughout the

country. Their advice and assistance will be available to men and women desiring training as nurses or midwives and to trained nurses and midwives who are seeking appointments or wish to enquire about nursing vacancies either at home or abroad. It will also be a function of the Nursing Appointments Offices to take appropriate steps, in conjunction with the vocational guidance organisation of the Juvenile Employment Service and by other means, to encourage the recruitment of suitable new entrants into the profession. It will be appreciated that the greater the use made of the Nursing Appointments Office Service the fuller and more effective it will be, and employers, nurses, midwives and persons wishing to train for these professions are therefore urged to continue to make full use of the service on all occasions.

APPOINTMENT.

MATRON.

Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Miss Gertrude Lang-Davis, S.R.N., S.C.M., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, in Midwifery, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, and in Housekeeping and Administration at the Royal Infirmary, Leicester. Miss Lang-Davis has held posts as Staff Nurse at St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Nursing Sister at the General Hospital, Rangoon, Burma; Holiday duties as Second Assistant Matron at the Royal Infirmary, Leicester; Matron-Superintendent at the International Hospital, Kobe, Japan; Matron-Superintendent at the Northallerton Emergency Hospital; Matron-Superintendent at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Dover; and Technical Nursing Officer to the Ministry of Labour.

During Nursing Service overseas, Miss Lang-Davis visited hospitals in Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Malay Straits, Ceylon, China, India and South Africa.

ANNUAL REPORT OF OVALTINE RESEARCH LABORATORIES.

In their Annual Report, Messrs. A. Wander, Ltd., tell us that the end of the World War provides the opportunity of summarising their work during the war years and describing certain facts which had hitherto not been made public. It has also enabled them to re-establish contacts with scientific colleagues on the continent, and discuss with them many problems of mutual interest.

Sources of Vitamin C.

The shortage of fruit in the wartime diet led to a search for suitable alternative sources of vitamin C. The most widely used of these were green vegetables and potatoes. Unfortunately, the vitamin C content of potatoes diminishes on storage so that in the Spring they are providing very much less of the vitamin and, at this time, green vegetables may be scarce. Dietary surveys have been carried out in different parts of the country to discover the vitamin C value of the national diet. These laboratories collaborated in one of these investigations which was organised by Professor Marrack to study the meals at British restaurants and school canteens in Hertfordshire. Results obtained in 24 feeding centres showed that during February to April the meals often provided insufficient amounts of vitamin C. Methods were considered of improving this condition and avoiding losses during cooking. It was decided that the great difficulty was to obtain sufficient green vegetables at this time of year. Investigations have shown that the intake of vitamin C often falls dangerously low at this period and this led to the introduction of various sources of vitamin C for distribution, especially to infants and young children. One of these sources in which interest has been taken is rose hips. Experiments on rose hips were carried out in the Ovaltine Research Laboratories for several years

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