

## THE QUEEN'S INSTITUTE OF DISTRICT NURSING.

The Queen's Institute of District Nursing, in presenting its Annual Report to Her Majesty Queen Mary, the Patron, reviews the past year's work, in which the financial position of the Institute continues to cause grave concern, the Finance Committee realising that drastic action must be taken in the coming year to increase income in order to maintain and expand its work. The deficit on the year's working was £2,899.

The report on the midwifery work of the Institute for the past year is a satisfactory one; 85,153 cases were attended by 4,253 midwives and district nurse-midwives working in connection with affiliated associations. The maternal mortality rate of 1 per 1,000 live births for the year was the lowest ever recorded, and pays great tribute to the work of the midwives. The midwives also attended 44,545 cases, acting as maternity nurses, with a doctor engaged. The maternal mortality rate in connection with these cases was 1.28 per 1,000.

Liverpool, the pioneer of district nursing, is once again a pioneer, being the first district nursing association to set up a mobile physiotherapy unit.

### Resolutions Submitted to the Minister of Health.

The following resolutions were agreed at a conference held in March, in which discussion took place regarding the future of the District Nursing Service, and submitted to the Minister of Health:—

"That the conference is of opinion that in a scheme for a national health service the Queen's Institute of District Nursing should be the body responsible for the training and inspection of district nurses."

"That the conference is of opinion that in a national health service existing Nursing Associations affiliated to the Queen's Institute of District Nursing or to the Ranyard Nurses should be the agents for the provision of domiciliary nursing, and that in a national health service it is desirable that there should be full co-ordination between all existing Nursing Associations to provide an adequate and efficient voluntary administration for the provision of domiciliary nursing."

"That the conference is of opinion that County and other Associations not at present affiliated to the Queen's Institute of District Nursing should be urged to affiliate to that body, thereby assisting to form a national service for domiciliary nursing covering the whole country."

"That the conference is of opinion that in the event of the establishment of an insurance system covering all health services it is essential that the Ministry of Health should obtain power to make grants for the cost of administration to central and local headquarters of a domiciliary nursing service."

### The Assistant Nurse.

The question as to how the Assistant Nurse can be used on the district has been very carefully considered. While adhering to the principle that for district nursing a fully trained nurse with district training is the ideal, the Council realises that to meet the growing demands upon the service, and until more district nurses can be trained, it is advisable to employ these nurses, and feels that such help could most profitably be used by the large town Associations. As a safeguard, conditions under which such nurses should work have been drawn up and will be supplied on application. It should be understood by all concerned that in no case should an Assistant Nurse work where she is not under the direct supervision of a Queen's Superintendent or a Queen's Nurse.

### Queen's Nurses from the Channel Islands.

Her Majesty Queen Mary graciously received the 12 Queen's Nurses from the Channel Islands and it was a great privilege to welcome them back after their courageous work during the occupation. The Council is glad to report that each nurse has received a gift of £100 from a fund raised by her more fortunate colleagues, and, in addition, each has been granted £15 from the American War Relief Fund to assist with the necessary replacement of personal belongings.

### Shortage of Nurses.

Until the full implications of the forthcoming National Health Service are fully known it is useless to speculate as to how many more nurses will be needed. A very great many more are needed to complete the existing service, and a vast number will be required if the service is to be made available night and day for all. Those who have the welfare of the nation at heart are urged to use every means within their power to encourage recruitment and to bring the opportunities and scope of this service before the eyes of the many women who, while not wishing an institutional career, might well be attracted by the more independent conditions offered in the district nursing service.

## TRAINING OFFER TO EX-SERVICE NURSING ORDERLIES.

### STATE REGISTRATION IN ONE YEAR.

In our last issue we referred to special courses for ex-Service nursing orderlies being organised by the Ministry of Health to fit them for State Registration.

The following details have now been announced by the Ministry of Health.

Mr. Aneurin Bevan, Minister of Health, with the agreement of the General Nursing Council, is arranging intensive courses of training to enable men and women ex-Service nursing orderlies, to qualify in a year as State Registered Nurses.

To be eligible, candidates must have had not less than two years' nursing experience and training in hospitals under State Registered Nurses in the Forces, and must possess one of the following qualifications:

- (a) Army: Nursing Orderly Class I or Nursing Member Class I.
- (b) Navy: Leading Sick Berth Attendant.
- (c) Royal Air Force: Leading Aircraftsman or Aircraftswoman in Trade of Nursing Orderly.

The courses will last for twelve months. At the end of approximately three months, the students will be required to take the Preliminary State Examination, and, at the end of a further nine months, the Final State Examination.

Men will be paid at the rate of 92s. a week (with a deduction of not more than 30s. a week for their board and lodging, if living in a hostel); and women at the rate of £90 per year, plus free board and lodging (or, if they are living at home, plus a living-out allowance of £80 a year). Students will be accommodated in groups at special training centres in various parts of England, of which the first will open in the autumn.

Forms of application for the courses can be obtained from the Ministry of Health (Division 4A III), Whitehall, S.W.1, or from any of the Ministry of Health Regional Offices, or from any Nursing Appointments office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Similar courses are being arranged by the Department of Health for Scotland (Nursing Division), St. Andrew's House, Edinburgh 1, from whom Scottish residents may obtain application forms and full information.

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