

supervision is she to be licensed to practise independently. Thus, in her third year, a Student will be a State Registered Staff Nurse in a training unit.

Interesting suggestions are put forward for new methods of selecting Student Nurses. More scientific means for assessing intelligence and all-round suitability are recommended. Likewise, there are to be post-graduate courses for Registered Nurses seeking higher posts, and newer and more accurate methods of selecting the right type for the different posts.

Hours of work have been reconsidered, and the three shift system of duty has been put forward as being nearer the ideal.

The Working Party has also recommended that the General Nursing Councils for England and Wales and for Scotland should be combined, and they also state that the possibility of including Midwifery should not be overlooked, and a General Council for Nurses and Midwives of Great Britain might come into being. In Northern Ireland, the Joint Nursing and Midwives' Council has worked successfully for years now.

Another recommendation with which the British College of Nurses, Ltd. heartily agrees is that concerning the abolition of the Assistant Nurses' Roll. With the two years' training for State Registration, all Nurses will have equal status, and all names will appear in the one Register of Nurses. The Working Party state that for some time it will be essential to use the services of those Assistant Nurses now employed, but such a grade should not be perpetuated. The Roll should be closed at a given date, and afterwards their duties partly allocated to trained Nurses and partly to a new grade of Nursing Orderlies with no legal status and with defined duties and rates of pay. Such a policy is sound and reasonable, and is just both to Registered Nurses and Enrolled Assistant Nurses. The Nurses Act of 1943 ought never to have been placed on the Statute Book, and there will be no tears when it is relegated to the wastepaper basket.

There is much more of absorbing interest in the Report, which can be bought by any Nurse for half-a-crown from H.M. Stationery Office. We strongly advise young Nurses to get their own copy and become familiar with its paragraphs, because if these recommendations become law, they will do so in their lifetime. We sincerely hope that they will become effective in our professional life also, because we are glad to see that Nurse teachers and Sister Tutors, who are well qualified and well educated, will take a prominent part, side by side and in equal status with Matrons, who will remain important administrators in the future Health World.

The new recommendations do, in fact, enhance the status in the civilian world of all Registered Nurses, in addition to bestowing higher professional independence for many more in higher posts, and thus introducing a more competitive spirit in the post-graduate courses. The Nursing Profession will not be slow in tendering its grateful thanks to the individual members of the Working Party for such a splendid Report, and for re-introducing hope where before all seemed chaotic and hopeless.

G. M. H.

A VISIT TO THE JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL, BALTIMORE

By kind invitation of Miss Anna D. Wolf, Director of the School of Nursing and Nursing Services, and the members of the Maryland Nursing Association, I was able to visit Baltimore and stay at the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

It would take a more facile pen than mine to pay adequate tribute to the true Southern hospitality which we foreign visitors received. From the warm greeting by one of the members of the Hospitality Committee on arrival, the vase of cornflowers and sweetpeas and the plate of oranges thoughtfully provided in the bedroom, to the social programme carefully prepared to give an all-round interesting and delightful survey of Maryland and its Hospitals, nothing was omitted to make the visit one to live long as a cherished memory.

Time will not permit me to write, as I would like, of the journeyings among Maryland's green hills, nor of sumptuous teas in lovely surroundings, of dogwood trees in full bloom, of tree-lined avenues and scarlet robins among the green foliage. If I am to do justice at all to my visit to one of America's most famous Nurse Training Schools then, there will be no room for the junketings.

The Johns Hopkins Hospital was founded in 1889, and a School of Nursing was inaugurated in the same year by Miss Isabel A. Hampton. Her portrait hangs in the main Nurses' Home along with one of Miss Mary Adelaide Nutting who succeeded her. I was allocated a room in the Hampton House, which was built in 1926. The Home is much as ours are, with single rooms, comfortable beds and roomy, Yale-locked cupboards. An innovation that I would like to see introduced into England is the telephone whereby the operator can inform the occupant of the room of a call which is then put through for her into a 'phone box at the end of the corridor. Also enviable is the nurses' sewing room, fitted with machines and a large cutting-out table.

In the main Nurses' Home is housed the Library, well stocked with books for borrowing and reference, magazines and maps. Here also is the Historical Library containing the collection of Nightingaleana presented by Dr. Kelly.

The hospital entrance is dominated by the huge statue of the "Divine Healer" after Thorvaldsen which has stood under the Rotunda in the hall for 50 years. One feels dwarfed to insignificance looking up its outstretched arms. The dome and surmounting spire of the Rotunda make an imposing landmark of the hospital which stands upon a rise of ground and dominates the tree-lined Broadway.

The hospital, which has just under a thousand beds, is built in blocks, each housing a department of medical science. Thus the Wilmer Institute contains ophthalmic wards, both public, private and semi-private, and an out-patients department. The wards are cubicled by half-glass partitions and curtains, with a sun lounge at the end of the block for convalescents. A well-furnished lounge with a distinctly un-institutional air of comfort is provided for the reception of patients and visitors.

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