

introduced to Miss Muriel Brunner, R.N., Nursing Arts Instructor; and Mrs. Lauder-Slager, R.N., Clinical Teacher in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. We were shown the very full syllabus which the student nurses must work through for their examinations, and I must admit that ours, for State Registration, looks rather simple by comparison. The practical room was very well equipped, and we met the Bedford Doll Models there. Miss Ranck mentioned the fact that they were rather short of nurses; there were 350 students in training and 150 graduate nurses employed.

As Philadelphia is North of the Mason and Dixon line, there is no colour bar, and I noticed some very trim and good-looking dark girls in nurses' uniforms. Miss Ranck kindly explained that coloured girls of good education were being accepted as Nursing Auxiliaries, in order to relieve the nursing shortage. She also stated that these auxiliaries did not leave them after six months in order to do private nursing, as white girls were tempted to do, because work was not so easily available to them. They were proving extremely useful and gave promise of becoming excellent "practical nurses."

Student nurses at the Jefferson are paid no salary. They pay an initial fee of 400 dollars for their tuition and afterwards a yearly fee, and they work exactly as do the British student nurses. No examination fee is paid for them, but uniform is found. Very new student nurses do not wear caps. After a trial period and after they successfully pass a preliminary examination they are ceremoniously "capped" and admitted to full Studentship.

When we returned to Miss Jackson's office she most kindly gave us cool drinks and the opportunity for a refreshing wash, before wishing us goodbye and a good voyage home.

#### ABINGTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

Before leaving Miss Jackson at "the Jefferson," I remarked to her that I personally am always happier in hospitals situated in the country, where one can see green trees and grass and hear the birds sing and the cuckoo calling. So she recommended us to go and see Abington, which we did.

We called there on Sunday afternoon, having previously made an appointment with the Director of Nurses, Miss M. C. Hausknecht, R.N. We arrived at 2.30 p.m., and we were charmed with the beautiful layout. It is situated on the Old York Road, just 12 miles north of Philadelphia's City Hall, in a lovely spot, standing well back from the main road. The surroundings are glorious, with romantic, sylvan vistas, and had I been an American girl just leaving High School with thoughts of nursing, I think I should have fallen badly for Abington.

It is quite a modern hospital, which was first opened with 50 beds in 1914. In the intervening years it has grown steadily, and now has 350 beds. It is chiefly a Voluntary and partly a State Hospital (not a Government institution). The hospital is efficiently equipped with all the necessary modern facilities, and its scientific service is world-famed, and patients from many countries come for treatment.

Everything necessary for providing Student Nurses with a thorough professional education is to be found at the hospital, such as specialised departments, laboratories, and advanced instruction in the Art and Science of Nursing and its correlated subjects. There are 140 Student Nurses in training and 76 Registered Nurses are also employed there. No student is accepted for training unless she can produce evidence of having graduated from a High School and she must have ranked in the upper third of her class. Preference is given to students with academic education beyond High School.

The Course for Nurses covers a three-year period from

the date of entrance. The pre-clinical term is for six months, and when the student successfully emerges from this "trial" period, she is "capped" and given a bib to her apron!! From then on, she passes through the Junior term (six months), the Intermediate term (12 months), and the Senior term (12 months). No salary is paid; and as a point of interest to British Nurses, the fees a Student must pay amount to \$300; that is about £75. Their curriculum includes, in addition to the subjects in the British Syllabus, Social Sciences—*e.g.*, Psychology and Emotional Hygiene, Sociology, Social Problems in Nursing, Nursing and Health Service in the Family, History of Nursing and Professional Adjustments, and many other subjects.

The Nurses' Home itself is beautiful. The main lobby is tiled in black and white squares, and it is a most imposing and dignified entrance. By simply crossing the floor and looking over the wall, one sees below a large and airy recreation room and auditorium where the nurses play badminton, volley ball and basket ball. Chaperoned teas and dances are given frequently throughout the year. The sitting-rooms for the nurses were most luxurious, and airy and bright. Little kitchenettes were also provided where off-duty nurses could have intimate tea-parties and invite friends. There were well-equipped laundry rooms where the nurses could wash and iron their "smalls." We were intrigued with the letter-box system in their home. Each nurse has her own individual letter-box within a sort of steel cabinet affixed to the wall, and each box is opened by its own individual combination. The home itself stands quite apart from the main hospital building in its own grounds, surrounded by shrubbery and flowers and grass-land.

The hospital wards are, by contrast with "the Jefferson," bright and filled with sunshine. Like "the Jefferson," they are clean and well equipped and are excellently managed. The patients are given dainty meals on individual trays and the food is tastefully served. The patients may easily ensure privacy by drawing curtains and thus isolating themselves.

I envied Miss Hausknecht her beautifully appointed office, with a lovely pastoral view from her window. She most kindly told us about Nursing conditions in the States, and gave us copies of the various State Nursing Journals, and she patiently answered our many questions. We greatly appreciated the kindness and courtesy which were extended to us by both Miss Jackson, R.N., and Miss Hausknecht, R.N., and our memories of the two Philadelphia Hospitals are very pleasant and happy.

G. M. H.

## APPOINTMENTS.

### MATRON.

**Melksham Hospital, Wilts:** Miss E. M. Tranter, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport; and has been Theatre Staff Nurse at the Jessop Hospital for Women; Sister in Charge, Maternity Home, Tredegar; Ward and Theatre Sister at St. Chad's Hospital, Birmingham; Ward Sister, Theatre Sister and Deputy Matron at the Birmingham and Midland Skin Hospital; Night Sister, Assistant and Acting Matron at the Peterborough and District Memorial Hospital; Matron, The Hospital, Dudley, latterly in charge of Thorpe Hall Hospital Annexe, Peterborough and District Hospital.

### HONORARY PHYSICIAN TO THE KING.

We offer our sincere congratulations to Dr. James Boyd, Chief Medical Officer to the Northern Ireland Ministry of Health, on his appointment as Honorary Physician to the King for a period of three years.

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