

THE NATIONAL HOSPITAL, QUEEN SQUARE, LONDON, W.C.1.

POST-GRADUATE COURSE IN NEUROLOGICAL NURSING.

In 1859 a small house was opened in Queen Square as a special hospital, through the ardent endeavours of two sisters and their brother, who had seen in their family the sadness and suffering brought upon those who are afflicted with paralysis and epilepsy.

This Hospital for Diseases of the Nervous System was the first of its kind, and within 50 years was established as an international centre of learning, known to-day as "The Cradle of Neurology." Wide knowledge has been gained and disseminated through the great work carried on here, many of the dark mysteries surrounding brain, nerve and muscle being elucidated.

Such specialised medical and surgical treatment demands equally specialised nursing care, experience of which is not to be gained in the wards of a general hospital. Trained Nurses are, therefore, accepted for a year's course of training and experience.

The Scope of the Course.

Within the last year this has been enlarged and is now planned as follows:—

Courses of weekly Lectures given throughout the year:—
September—January—Neurology—12 Lectures given by the Physicians.

Hemiplegia and Paraplegia; Disseminated Sclerosis; Inflammation of the Central Nervous System, (a) Myelitis, (b) Poliomyelitis, (c) Encephalitis; Epilepsy; Polyneuritis; Inflammation of the Meninges; Chorea; Athetosis; Syphilis of the Central Nervous System; Trigeminal Neuralgia; Sciatica; Aphasia; Diseases of the Muscle; Cerebral Tumour; Tumour of the Spinal Cord; Certain Neurological Syndromes and their Gaits; the Nurse's Part in Research.

February—March—Neurosurgical treatment—Five Lectures given by the Surgeons and Anaesthetist.

Introduction; Pre- and Post-Operative Treatment for Spinal Lesions; Sympathectomy—Pre- and Post-Operative Treatment (two lectures); Pre- and Post-Operative Treatment for Cerebral Lesions; Anaesthesia in Neurosurgery.

March—April—Neuropathology—Four Lectures given by the Pathologists.

Spinal Tumours; Commoner Pathological Examinations; Cerebral Tumours; Commoner Pathological Examinations.

April—May—Radiography—Four Lectures given by the Radiographers.

June—July—Neuropsychiatry—Six Lectures given by the Psychiatrist.

Introduction; Common psycho-neuroses; Schizophrenia; Paranoia; Manic depressive states; Rehabilitation.

Ophthalmology in relation to Neurological Treatment—Two Lectures given by the Ophthalmologist.

Other lectures include a series given by Miss C. Morris, the Almoner, and Mrs. N. Mackenzie, lecturer in Psychology and Ethics at the Royal College of Nursing.

Classes are given by the Sister Tutor and Senior Sisters to cover tuition in the Elementary Anatomy and Physiology of the Nervous System and Nursing methods.

The Nurses work for periods on the medical and surgical wards and attend a series of Out Patient Clinics.

A minimum of six cases are written up by each nurse during the year.

No qualifying examination is held but a test is given at the completion of each series of lectures.

The National Hospital Certificate is awarded upon the completion of a year's satisfactory work and application to study.

Neurological and Neurosurgical Nursing demands a great deal from the personality and enthusiasm of the Nurses, but to those who are interested in bedside nursing every aspect of each patient's welfare, and at the same time are prepared to increase their technical skill and clinical knowledge, it can prove most satisfying and of very great interest.

A new Hospital building was opened in 1938 as an extension to the main building of 1889, and this has many advantages of modern equipment.

The Post Graduate Medical School receives students from all countries of the world, and since the end of the war it has been possible to plan for an equally inter-national Post Graduate Nursing School.

Theatre experience is available to any Nurse showing an aptitude for this work on completion of the year's training.

Conditions of Service.—Current Rushcliffe Scale for Staff Nurses commencing at £140 per annum.

Residence.—This is optional. Residents have quarters which are run on the pattern of hotel management rather than on that of a Hostel or Nurses' Home, and where full individual social amenities are available.

Hours of duty and holidays.—These are 48 hours per week. The shift system of duty is in operation in many of the wards. Four weeks holiday are given during the year.

KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR LONDON.

At the annual meeting of the Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, held at St. James's Palace, on July 9th, H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, presiding, opened his Address by saying that the transfer of the hospitals to the State made this meeting a landmark in the history of King Edward's Hospital Fund. We find ourselves to-day with a great fund, with capital assets of several million pounds. It is natural to ask: "What is the King's Fund going to do with its money now that the need to sustain the voluntary hospitals has passed into history?"

"The break in continuity is not, in fact, as great as it may appear at first sight. The Fund has, from its early days, never accepted the view that its opportunities were limited to the mere distribution of grants. Taking into its counsels leaders in the hospital world of London, the Fund has been a centre of many new conceptions of the duties and responsibilities of the hospitals towards the community. If now it becomes what is commonly known as a 'Foundation' rather than a 'Fund,' the opportunities remain; they are, indeed, vastly increased. The transfer of the hospitals to the State is not the only—perhaps, not even the most important—change that is taking place to-day; the whole hospital world is in the throes of evolutionary developments, the ultimate outcome of which no one can foresee. New conceptions of the hospitals as a system closely integrated with medical practice and many other activities in the field of preventive medicine and social welfare were first clearly outlined in Lord Dawson's report of 1920. The ideas of that report are still alive. All over the world, and especially perhaps in America and in the Dominions, and throughout the East, they are making themselves felt. They underlie the whole concept of regionalisation, and the eyes of the world are watching with intense interest the great experiment now being tried in this country.

"There are in America great foundations, such as the Rockefeller Foundation and its younger sisters, the Kellogg

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)