

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

At the recent meetings of the General Nursing Council for Scotland, the following hospitals were approved as Training Schools: Baldovan Institution, Dundee, for the Mental Defective Part of the Register. Peel Hospital, Clovenfords, Selkirkshire, in association with the Edinburgh Hospital for Women and Children, for the General Part of the Register. Bridge of Earn Hospital, Perthshire, for the General and Male Nurses Part of the Register.

The names of 190 Nurses holding the Royal Medico-Psychological Association Certificate were added to the Mental Part of the Register and the names of 13 holders to the Mental Defective Part of the Register.

Registration by Reciprocity was granted to Nurses already registered in England, India, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

Registration was granted to Nurses who had passed the recent Final Examinations, namely, General, 249; Male, 8; Fever, 61; Sick Children, 4; Mental, 13.

Reported 57 applications for re-inclusion in the Register from Nurses after non-payment of the annual Retention Fee—these applications were approved.

Enrolment as Assistant Nurses was granted to 118 persons.

The names of 199 Assistant Nurses were removed from the Roll owing to non-payment of the annual Retention Fee.

Eight applications for re-inclusion in the Roll from Assistant Nurses deleted for non-payment of the annual Retention Fee were considered and approved.

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRON.

LEWISHAM HOSPITAL, LONDON, S.E.—Miss M. C. Bell, S.R.N., R.F.N., S.C.M., T.A. (Hons.), has been appointed Matron. She was trained at Dulwich Hospital, London, and has been Assistant Matron at Hammersmith Hospital; Assistant Matron at St. Nicholas' Hospital, Plumstead; Assistant Matron at Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton; and Matron at the St. George-in-the-East Hospital, Wapping.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

ODSTOCK BRANCH OF SALISBURY GENERAL HOSPITAL.—Miss Rose O'Maley, S.R.N., S.C.M., has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at Newcastle General Hospital, where she was later Ward Sister and Theatre Sister, and has been Night Superintendent at Salisbury General Infirmary; and Assistant Matron and Sister Tutor at Trowbridge and District Hospital. Miss O'Maley holds a Housekeeping Certificate.

RUNWELL HOSPITAL, NR. WICKFORD, ESSEX.—Miss Helen Dewar Myles, S.R.N., has been appointed Senior Assistant Matron. She was trained at the Dundee Royal Infirmary; the Glasgow Royal Maternity Hospital; and the Runwell Hospital. Miss Myles has been Staff Nurse at the Northern and South General Hospital, Edinburgh; Sister at Bangour Hospital, Broxburn; and Assistant Matron at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Mental Disorders.

NIGHT SUPERINTENDENT.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ROYAL INFIRMARY AND EYE INSTITUTION—Miss Muriel L. Keele, S.R.N., has been appointed Night Superintendent. She was trained at the Leicester Royal Infirmary, and has been Theatre Sister at the Camborne-Redruth Hospital; Theatre Sister at the Royal Salop Infirmary; Ward Sister at the Leicester Royal Infirmary; Medical Ward Sister at the Gloucestershire Royal Infirmary. Miss Keele served with the T.A.N.S. from 1940-1946.

LOOKING BACK.

As I read in the Press, and hear so much talk of the "wants" of student nurses to-day, my thoughts involuntarily go back to my own early days of training.

The first year—no salary at all, and I had to find my own uniform, books, and usual instruments for doing simple dressings. The second year, my salary was £20; later, when I became Sister of a Men's Surgical Ward, my salary rose to £30, an amount which rather frightened me, I wondered how I should ever spend so much money! By this time my uniform was provided, so I had fewer ways of spending it.

However, I knew I should have to provide for my old age, so I immediately took out a policy in the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, and each time my position improved, and I received more salary, I increased my savings. The hospital authorities, to encourage thrift, paid half the necessary premium, and when I left my training school, eight years later, they very kindly presented me with this amount.

Every lecture was taken after duty (there were not Preliminary Training Schools or Sister Tutors in those days) so we had to do a full day's work before attending a lecture.

There were no half-day or whole-day holidays then, probationers had two hours off duty in the morning after the dressings and special treatments were completed; staff nurses and sisters had three hours off duty during afternoons and evenings, alternating with each other.

We went on duty at 7 a.m. after breakfasting at 6.30 a.m., and left the wards at 8.30 p.m. having, in the meantime, breaks just long enough to take our meals.

Our holidays consisted of four weeks annually, unless we were requested to return earlier! In those days, too, we had not heard of going out after duty; this time, if not needed for lectures, we used to practise bandaging and testing one another in some of the one hundred and one things we had to learn.

It may now be thought what a hard time we had; it was, but with it all most of us loved every minute of it, whether we were cleaning grates, polishing floors, or washing up after as well as preparing meals, we just thought it was part, and a necessary part too, of our training, for we were determined to become well trained, certificated nurses, and so long as we gained our object, what mattered if the road were a bit rough at times; we knew so well that the road to success was no easy one, but had to be tackled with spirit and the will to come through.

In later years, when I became Matron, I loved to tell my staff that I did not expect anything of them that I had not already done myself, and they in their turn said how much that thought had helped them. It helped me, too, to see things from their point of view.

Of course there were no "pictures" in those days, nor many other amusements which nurses seem to need now, although there was always tennis, croquet, and a dance once a year at Christmas-time; monthly dances, whist drives, and swimming pools were unheard of.

In spite of all this, there was no thought of strikes or downing tools, we were much too proud of our profession, and we knew that we were preparing ourselves for our own future and the means of earning a livelihood, and we knew what was provided while we were accomplishing this—good companionship, a happy life, and above all a home and all that it meant. As we were on the spot, we had no travel fares to pay, and whatever the weather we were where our work lay.

I still look back to the 42 years I spent in hospital as amongst the happiest of my life. I had become what, from my earliest recollections, I had always wanted to be—a nurse (certificated) efficiently trained to serve the sick.

EX-MATRON.

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