

Wood, Deputy Matron, who spared no pains to escort us through, what seemed to be, miles of grounds and corridors; to Miss H. M. Newton, Assistant Matron and Sister Tutor, for helping to entertain us at the luncheon table with anecdotes of a recent Scottish holiday; to the Supervisors of the various departments who unsparingly described their activities; to the Male Charge Nurses who welcomed us within their precincts; to Mr. Whitehead, the model farmer, and Bruce; and last of all to Jimmy, Matron's wire haired terrier, who showed his approval of us by hunting for and presenting us with pieces of coal.

We left the hospital with a silent resolution that, when inclined to grumble over small trifles, we would think of the self-sacrifice being practised by this community of persons in their efforts to ease the troubled paths of our unfortunate brothers and sisters.

We fervently hope that we may again be privileged to find our way to Bexley, and become acquainted with the Occupational Therapy Department of the Male patients, who that day were engaged in a cricket match with patients of another Mental Hospital, all looking very professional in smart white shirts and flannels, one team wearing blue caps, and the other red ones.

We pray that more student nurses may come forward to qualify for this very satisfying work of mercy. M.R.A.

TRAINING ALLOWANCES FOR STUDENT NURSES AND PUPIL MIDWIVES.

The Nurses and Midwives' Whitley Council have agreed on new training allowances for student nurses, pupil assistant nurses and pupil midwives employed under the National Health Service. These allowances will come into force immediately, with effect from September 1, 1948.

The training allowances represent a new approach to the remuneration of student nurses. They will provide students with an adequate sum for maintenance while in training for their professional career. They offer a sound basis on which true student status may be built up, and will help to bring nursing and midwifery training into line with the training for other professions.

The basic allowance is £200 a year for the first-year student in general training. Higher allowances will be paid to second- and third-year students who carry more responsibility and to students in the special fields of tuberculosis nursing and midwifery.

New students entering training after January 1 next will receive an all-in payment from which those resident in hospital will have to pay an annual charge of £100 for board and lodging.

Existing students and those recruited before the end of the year will, however, if they are resident in the hospital, continue to receive their allowances in the form of a net cash allowance with free residential emoluments. For the first-year general student, the cash allowance will be £100, and the emoluments will be valued for superannuation at £100. More senior students and those in the special fields will receive higher allowances.

Students who live out will receive free meals on duty, uniform and laundry in addition to their training allowances.

£15 of the increase for pupil midwives is back-dated to July 5 in England and Wales (it is already payable in Scotland). The rates for post-registration student nurses are provisional, and may be revised.

The remuneration of student mental nurses is under consideration by a special Committee of the Council, and it has been agreed that any decision affecting these nurses shall operate from September 1, 1948.

THE PASSING BELL.

EVELYN EDEN.

Many old friends who participated in the historic struggle for the State Registration of Nurses have passed away of recent years, and now we have to record the death of Evelyn Eden, the Founder of the National Union of Trained Nurses, a Society that played no ignoble part in the later stages of the movement. Hers was one of the busy brains in it, and the late Mrs. Bedford Fenwick very often expressed appreciation and admiration of the fine contributions she made to the literary propaganda connected with the promotion of the Registration Bill.

A recent letter from one of her friends made mention of her clear spirit, keen intelligence, and the sympathy and interest that were so alive in her. These qualities are no doubt partly to be accounted for by the environment and privileges that fell to her in childhood. Her father was in the Diplomatic Service, and therefore she must have met many great personalities, but she had what was perhaps a still greater privilege in the beauty that surrounded her throughout her early years and her close companionship with nature. Her mother was of Swiss birth, and possessed a very beautiful property in the valley of the Aar, where the family spent their summers. Part of her youth, too, was passed in Lisbon, Dresden and Stuttgart, while her English home lay under the Quantock Hills in Somerset. She was indeed fortunate for such surroundings in childhood bring rich gifts in after life. In her early life she was a sportswoman, and rode to hounds, and drove tandem; she studied natural history, and had many curious pets such as fishes, a snake, owls and suchlike.

Miss Eden trained at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and then joined Poplar Hospital that she might work in Dockland. But an accident to her hand and the claims of an aged mother cut short her professional life. She had learned, however, something of the loneliness and frustrations of a nurse's life, and this led her to found the Nurses' Social Union in order to form branches where the nurses would find interests and activities outside the daily round. But later, when efforts to found an independent Act for the State Registration of Nurses on just principles, were being jeopardised, she threw her Union into the struggle, and it was given the more comprehensive title of the National Union of Trained Nurses.

During the first world war the Union worked for the equipment of an emergency hospital in France, and it also kept a Register of nurses prepared to undertake war work. Out of the Union also there arose the Evelyn Mary Memorial Fund and the Mariabella Fry Bequest Fund. To the former, those nurses who value Miss Eden's work for the profession might well send subscriptions, even if they be small in days when there are so many claims.

We might close with a sentence or two from a speech made by a Member of the Union when it was closed down: "Even if this Union comes to an end as the National Union, the work done by it has contributed something really great to our profession, to the world and to the progress of humanity. Although the passing of certain measures for which we have fought, will not mean much to some of us, it will to some of our younger sisters coming on, and we have got the recognition of the principle that nursing is a profession for which real education is necessary." I.M.

SISTER MARY MCHARDY.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Sister Mary McHardy on August 28th, 1948, at Fayid, Middle East.

Miss McHardy trained at Chalmers Hospital, Banff, from May, 1942, to July, 1946. She joined Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve in November, 1946, and served at home and in the Middle East.

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