

THE REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF NURSES.

The British Hospitals Association has recently issued its comments and new proposals on the Report of the Working Party on the Recruitment and Training of Nurses.

This very comprehensive memorandum shows a practical knowledge of the essentials of a nurse's training and particularly of the importance of bedside nursing.

On the Working Party's suggestion that the nurse in training should be accorded full student status, the Association comments: "The Report is disappointingly obscure, in that it does not show how the student, were she to be granted full student status, would receive her practical training in the ward. If she is not to be a member of the ward team, is she to attend as an observer without regard to the grave interference this would cause to the necessities of ward work? Is she to be taken round with others and be lectured at the bedside of the patient like the medical student? If she is to have any practical duties, is she to be responsible to the sister tutor rather than to the ward sister? If she is not a member of the ward team, how can she receive a delegated share of responsibility from the ward sister—and yet the gradual acquisition of this responsibility is, in fact, an integral and continuous part of the training of the student.

The aim of nurse-training, the Association believes, is to produce a first-class and sympathetic practical bedside nurse, and that the student should throughout her training acquire the fullest sense or responsibility to her patient. This responsibility she cannot acquire unless she is a member of the team of staff in the ward, unless most of her training is at the bedside, and unless she is responsible to the ward sister. To acquire her art and skill, the student in nursing must be as much apprentice as she is student.

If she were to be given full student status, the trainee would acquire many grave misconceptions as to the nature of her professional life and her responsibilities as a practising nurse.

The Association's new proposals include a basic training of three years, culminating in the qualification "State Registered Nurse." At the end of the second year, however, there would be a qualifying practical examination entitling use of the term "nurse" without any such prefix as "assistant." The three years would include a three months' preliminary course, which should normally be taken at school or night classes. As the three years' training would be truly basic, specialised nurse-training would be taken subsequently.

The Association does not consider that the complete separation of nurse-training, both in its control and finance, from that of the hospitals in which the training must inevitably be done, "desirable or practicable," and when Group Training Units are formed "we feel most strongly that the position and responsibility of the Matrons should not be impaired and that the Matron of the principal hospital for nurse-training in the Group should generally be the Principal of the Training School, with facilities for consultation with Matrons of the hospitals within the Group. . . ."

The Association does not agree with the suggested amalgamation of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales with that for Scotland; nor that the two Nursing Councils should be amalgamated with the Central Midwives Boards. Amalgamation would result in too unwieldy a body, and they see no reason to believe that amalgamation would either promote or guarantee efficiency.

We much appreciate the reference to the importance of the rightful position of the Matron in the scheme, as there is a strong feeling of disquiet that the intention of the Report is for the elimination of her office!

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRON.

BLACKBURN AND EAST LANCASHIRE ROYAL INFIRMARY.—Miss Mary H. Donovan, R.G.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, where she was later Sister, Female Surgical Ward; Sister, Female Medical Ward; Third Assistant Matron, and Second Assistant Matron. Miss Donovan has also been Staff Nurse and Assistant Dietitian at the London Clinic.

CORNELIA AND EAST DORSET HOSPITAL (POOLE GENERAL HOSPITAL), DORSET.—Miss M. Welford, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at York County Hospital; at Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; and at the Prince of Wales' Hospital, Plymouth. Miss Welford has been Sister, Out Patients' Department, Clayton Hospital, Wakefield; Ward Sister at Prince of Wales' Hospital, Plymouth; Night Sister at the Poplar Hospital, London; Home Sister at the Infirmary, Bury, Lancs; Assistant Matron at East Denbighshire Hospital, Wrexham; and Matron at the Hospital for Women, Leeds.

GENERAL HOSPITAL, MIDDLESBROUGH.—Miss Elsie Patmore, S.R.N., S.C.M., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at St. Giles' Hospital, Camberwell, London, and has been Administrative Sister at Redhill County Hospital, Surrey; Home and Administrative Sister at the City General Hospital, Gloucester; and Deputy Matron at Broadgreen Hospital, Liverpool.

WEST LANE HOSPITAL, MIDDLESBROUGH.—Miss Sara E. Hunter, S.R.N., R.F.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and at the Preston Hospital and Tynemouth Jubilee Infirmary, North Shields. Miss Hunter has been Ward Sister and Night Sister at the City Isolation Hospital, Norwich; Home Sister, Second Assistant Matron and First Assistant Matron at the City Isolation Hospital, Leicester.

MARSTON GREEN MATERNITY HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM.—Miss Mildred Maxwell, S.R.N., S.C.M., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at Birch Hill Hospital, Littleborough, Lancs., and with the Cheltenham District Nursing Association, and has been Staff Midwife at the London Road Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent; Staff Midwife and Relief District Sister at Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital, Walthamstow; Night Sister at the Watford Maternity Hospital; Labour Ward and Theatre Sister, and Maternity Ward Sister at the Middlesex County Maternity Hospital, Bushey, Herts.; Approved Midwife Teacher with supervision of Maternity Out Patient Department, Redhill County Hospital, Edgware; Superintendent Midwife at Withington Hospital, West Didsbury, Manchester; and Matron at Heathfield Maternity Home, Birmingham 19.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

BLACKBURN AND EAST LANCASHIRE ROYAL INFIRMARY.—Miss Theresa Hothersall, S.R.N., has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at the City General Hospital, Sheffield; and has been Relief Sister and Night Sister at St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester; Home Sister and Sister of Private Wing at Christie Hospital, Manchester; and Assistant Matron at North Lonsdale Hospital, Barrow-in-Furness.

BOOTH HALL HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, MANCHESTER.—Miss Dorothy Biddle, S.R.N., R.S.C.N., has been appointed First Assistant Matron. She was trained at Booth Hall Hospital, Manchester; at the Battersea Polytechnic; at the Oldham Royal Infirmary; and at the Hope Hospital, Salford. Miss Biddle has been Staff Nurse at the Booth Hall Hospital; Theatre Staff Nurse, Junior Night Sister and Ward Sister at the Hope Hospital, Salford; Home Sister and Housekeeping Sister at Birch Hill Hospital, Rochdale;

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