

### Laboratory Services.

In 1946 the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service was transformed into a permanent service and came into operation at once. The Government Lymph Establishment at Colindale was made available for the use of the Central Public Health Laboratory. Field trials of pertussis vaccine and special studies of the bacteriology of ice cream, of penicillin in the treatment of diphtheria, of the synergic action of penicillin and sulphathiazole in the treatment of typhoid fever cases and carriers, and, with the National Institute of Medical Research, of the prophylactic value of influenza vaccine were carried out.

### Maternal Care.

The steep rise in the birth rate, however gratifying, embarrassed all those responsible for maternal care. Births in the first quarter were some 20,000 more than in the last quarter of 1945. In the second quarter, 40,000 more were expected than in the first, and the rise seemed likely to continue all the year. Housing shortages led more mothers to seek hospital accommodation for their confinements. The ever-increasing demands for maternity accommodation required every effort by the authorities concerned to extend existing maternity units so far as they could be staffed, and, despite shortage of labour and materials, schemes were approved to provide 862 additional maternity beds. All these difficulties make the new low records in maternal, neonatal and infant mortality the more creditable to all concerned.

*Day nurseries.* There appeared to be a general trend of opinion that there is a considerably increased risk of infection among young children in day nurseries, especially to children under two years of age. In some of the nurseries established in factories conditions were found to be very unsatisfactory, and better standards of premises, staffing and equipment were advised, and the firms encouraged to consult the welfare authorities for guidance in the establishment and supervision of the nurseries.

### Hospitals.

The conflict between the claims of *hospital improvement* and the restriction on building operations imposed by the present shortage of labour and materials created a very difficult situation. But, in face of the severe current shortages, proposals for meeting even the most urgent needs had to be framed with strictest economy, make-shift measures sometimes had to be adopted, and departure from some accepted standards tolerated. Moreover, as the "bottle-neck" to the admission of patients in many parts was due to shortage of nurses and domestics rather than to lack of ward accommodation, the provision of nurses' homes had to have priority at many hospitals.

Nevertheless, at *general hospitals*, many much needed extensions or improvements were undertaken, and many emergency hospital huts adapted to ordinary civil hospital needs.

*Chronic sick.* Provision of improved treatment for the chronic sick, who occupy some 70,000 beds, is reviewed, and the need for some type of half-way house between hospital ward and home emphasised.

### The Watch for Infection from Overseas.

*Seaborne.* Over 27,000 ships from foreign countries arrived at the 24 larger ports in England and Wales during 1946, and of these, 611 had cases of infectious disease (apart from venereal diseases) aboard. Twenty-one ships, some carrying four or five thousand troops and passengers, either had actual cases of smallpox (seven ships, 13 patients) or had landed patients with smallpox en route, or had contacts on board. Surveillance over so many contacts dispersing rapidly put a heavy burden on the Port Health Authorities, especially at Liverpool and Southampton, and on the staffs of local health authorities, and it is

surprising that more outbreaks due to ship-borne smallpox did not occur. Thirteen vessels arrived with a total of 24 patients with enteric fever.

*Airborne.* As with ship-borne disease, smallpox was the chief risk in 1946, and two small outbreaks due to airborne passengers resulted.

## APPOINTMENTS.

### MATRONS.

BATH AND WESSEX CHILDREN'S ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL, COOMBE PARK, BATH.—Miss L. G. Oldendorff, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at Guy's Hospital, London, and has been engaged in Orthopædic work at Chorley, Exeter and Bath. Miss Oldendorff holds the Housekeeping Certificate of Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital, Alton, Hants, and is a member of Panel of Examiners of the British Orthopædic Association and the Central Council for the Care of Cripples.

ROYAL SOUTH HANTS AND SOUTHAMPTON HOSPITAL, SOUTHAMPTON.—Miss D. Morris, S.R.N., S.C.M., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary, and has been Theatre Sister at the Chester Hospital; Ward Sister at the Kent Ophthalmic and Aural Hospital; Night Sister of the Willesden Hospital; Housekeeper and Assistant Matron at the Croydon Hospital, and Matron at the Royal Waterloo Hospital for Sick Children and Women, London.

### ASSISTANT MATRON.

QUEEN MARY'S HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, CARSHALTON.—Miss E. M. Couzins, S.R.N., has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at the County Hospital, Chatham, Kent, and has been Staff Nurse and Pupil Midwife at Mayday Hospital, Croydon; Ward Sister and Night Sister at the County Hospital, Chatham; Pupil Housekeeper at the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby; Ward Sister at the Willesden General Hospital; Acting Matron's Deputy of David Solomon's Home, Southborough; First Assistant Matron at Botleys Park Hospital, Chertsey, and Second Assistant Matron at St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey.

### NURSING SISTER.

#### Kenya.

Miss G. M. Rogers, S.R.N., S.C.M., has been appointed a Nursing Sister; trained at Bristol Royal Hospital, West Middlesex County Hospital and Mortimer House Maternity Hospital, Bristol, she has qualified for the Gas and Air Analgesia Certificate, and has been Staff Midwife at the City of London Maternity Hospital.

#### Nigeria.

Miss A. R. L. Skinner has been appointed a Nursing Sister; trained at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and the Simpson Memorial Maternity Pavilion, Edinburgh, she has held appointments at Lewis Hospital, Stornoway, Elsie Inglis Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh; and in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.

#### Northern Rhodesia.

Miss Matilda Sargent, S.R.N., S.C.M., has been appointed a Nursing Sister. She has qualified for the Gas and Air Analgesia Certificate and was trained at the General Hospital, Stratford-on-Avon; the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton; and Woking Maternity Home.

#### Uganda.

Miss P. J. Brewer, S.R.N., S.C.M., has been appointed a Nursing Sister; trained at Southend General Hospital; Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham; and Woking Maternity Home, Miss Brewer has held appointments at Radcliffe Infirmary; and Woking Maternity Home.

Miss C. G. J. Read, S.R.N., S.C.M., has been appointed a Nursing Sister; she trained at Scarborough Hospital;

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