

members of the Management Committee for your lively interest in the progress of the hospital, and your deep appreciation of our needs; though you do not always give a positive reply to our requests, at least not at the time of asking, the pleasure is only deferred.

Nursing is the most personal of human services. No matter how vast the health service grows, the basis of it will always be essentially human. Our legislation merely provides a framework, and in our hospitals we give that legislation life. Prize-giving Day is; therefore, the nurses' day. They have worked well and have given good service; they have remembered that their first concern is the patient, and their main aim is to make the sick well.

As nurses are essential to the success of the Health Service, I will give a few statistics. Some interesting figures were given recently by the Ministry of Health and show that in

September, 1947	... 40,434 nurses were in training
September, 1948	... 42,722 nurses were in training
March, 1949	... 45,300 nurses were in training.



Nurse Lewis Jack Chandler (centre) the Gold Medallist, with Nurses Joyce Kathleen Morgan and Barbara Joan Archer, the Silver and Bronze Medallists.

It is apparent from these figures that the vicious circle of the too few staff and inadequate recruitment has been broken. We, of course, have made our contribution to these figures. There were in

September, 1947	... 233 students
September, 1948	... 250 students
March, 1949	... 270 students.

The examination results here also testify to the hard work performed by students and teachers:

Hospital Final Examination, 1948-1949, 71 passed.

State Final, October, 1948, to June, 1949, 98 passed, including 35 men.

I congratulate these nurses on their success, and I have much pleasure in recording a tribute paid by the late Dr. J. G. Leebody, Medical Superintendent of Fulham Hospital, who served as our examiner in surgery and surgical nursing in May this year.

"... It was obvious that all the candidates had seen plenty of good work well done, and I was particularly

impressed by the way the nurses spoke of patients, and by the kindly thought that was shown by them for the comfort of the patients and also for the peace of mind of the relatives. One was left with the impression after this oral examination that one would have been well content to have been a patient under the care of these candidates. . . ."

You know there is still much talk about the shortage of nurses and of poor recruits. Here we are proud of our trainees and in no sense has the standard fallen. The nurses come to us new to the profession; they adjust themselves quickly, emotionally and psychologically to their new environment, where often for the first time they meet sickness, suffering and death. They rejoice in the benefits of modern therapy; they are quick to co-operate in new attacks on disease. In these ways they learn a philosophy and reach a satisfactory maturity.

Now that you are a State Registered Nurse, you are faced with the problem of choosing a field of work and adjusting yourself to it. As a new graduate, you have a wide choice of work, and to be happy in it you must investigate the different branches of nursing, examine the possibilities for advancement, the type of work involved and your aptitude for it.

To conclude, I would like to quote the words of Miss Daisy Bridges, Secretary, International Council of Nurses, in her impressive speech at the opening session of the conference in Stockholm:—

"... The past is inspiring, the future is challenging, the present is our responsibility. Let us, therefore, while shouldering these responsible duties, and in the consciousness of the achievements of the past which we have inherited, so plan for the future, with wisdom, foresight and integrity, that when succeeding generations look back on us as we ourselves survey the past, then our page of history shall seem no less inspiring than those that have gone before. . . ."

#### A Word from the Medical Superintendent.

The Medical Superintendent, Dr. A. Norman Jones, F.R.C.S., paid tribute to the long and distinguished service of Sister Christie who had supervised the daily working of the Light Department since its inception (23 years ago) and was now retiring.

Dr. Jones considered that the impressive list of those who had completed training was a tribute to the work of the sister tutors and ward sisters, and felt that although all members of the staff must share in the credit, the final responsibility rested with their Matron.

Following the vote of thanks to Lady E. C. Whitmore, proposed by Dr. F. R. Dennison, M.D., D.P.H., and seconded by Mrs. E. V. Whiter, S.R.N., S.C.M., Miss M. McBride, senior sister tutor, proposed a very warm vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was seconded by the gold medallist, Mr. L. J. Chandler, which concluded the ceremony.

To the Nurses' recreation room the company progressed, where refreshments of ample and most dainty confection awaited it for tea.

So ended Whipps Cross Hospital Prize-giving Day of 1949—a real triumph for all concerned. A. S. B.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)