

## Nurses' Prize-Giving.

ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST HOSPITAL, WAPPING, whose motto must surely be "Resurgam," held the first public prize-giving and presentation of Hospital Certificates in the long history of the hospital on Thursday, October 31st, 1950. It was fitting that the first citizen of the Borough of Stepney, His Worship the Mayor, Councillor F. G. Spearing, J.P., should have presented the prizes before a gathering of some 100 members of the Nursing Staff, members of the Hospital Management Committee, of the House Committee and the public.

Mr. Edward Gibson, M.B.E., J.P., Chairman of the House Committee, in a tribute to the Nursing Staff stressed the greatness that it was within the power of all members of the nursing profession to achieve—the light in the darkness was the kindness of the nursing staff, to whom the patient was always the first consideration.

Over the past two years many new and highly qualified Consultants had been added to those already available. There were now seven Consultants and seven Medical Staff on the staff of the hospital.

The Matron, Miss M. M. Thorne, S.R.N., S.C.M., gave a resumé of the Examination Results and expressed the appre-

Gifts and handicraft works by the nursing staff were soon cleared from the stalls at the Sale of Work.

The Staff Reunion Dance in the evening closed a unique and memorable occasion for the staff of St. George's-in-the-East Hospital, which has rendered a really great service to the sick and suffering over many, many years. The very names of the Wards—Faith, Hope, Mercy, etc.—remain silent tribute to that incredible band of sisters who during the cholera epidemic of 1854 literally sacrificed their own lives to assist those in need. The light still burns and will never dim at St. George's-in-the-East Hospital, Wapping.

Prizes were given to the following:—

**For the Best Practical First Year Nurse.**

Miss JENNIE SANDS.

**For the Best Practical Second Year Nurse.**

Miss CATHERINE CULLINANE.

**For the Best Practical Third Year Nurse.**

Miss HANNAH MARIE CURRAN.

**Anatomy and Physiology.**

Miss MARIANNE VON DER OHE.

**Surgery and Gynaecology.**

Miss HANNAH MARIE CURRAN.

**Medicine.**

Miss PATRICIA ANN HARLAND.



Happy Prize-winners at St. George's-in-the-East Hospital, Wapping.

ciation of the whole of the Nursing Staff at the marked improvement in the Nurses' Home, which had now a fitted wash-basin and radiator in every room, and the small, though colourful, paved garden, which afforded such joy to the nursing staff during the summer weather. Matron thanked the nurses for their whole-hearted efforts to relieve the sickness and distress of the patients, to the Medical Staff for their co-operation and to the Ward Sisters and Nurses and the Tutor for the way in which they had trained the student nurses.

During the presentation of the prizes His Worship the Mayor recalled the many happy memories he had retained of the occasion when he was a patient in the hospital.

Mrs. B. Hastings, Chairman of the Hospital Management Committee, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Mayor, stated how fortunate for the occasion it was that the Mayor should be one who lived so close and had known the hospital for possibly 50 years.

Councillor R. Milligan, a member of the House Committee, seconded the vote of thanks.

Student Nurse Joan Pickett proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Gibson for presiding on the occasion and for his very real interest in the welfare of the patients and the nursing staff.

## Statement of Chairman of General Nursing Council on the Work of the Council since the last Election.

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### Education and Examination Committee.

AS ALWAYS, THE WORK of this committee which is responsible for all matters relating to nurse training has been heavy.

Every effort has been made to reintroduce the Test Examination waived on the outbreak of war. Discussions have taken place with educational and nursing bodies and a test has been devised for the Council, and investigations carried out, by the National Institute of Industrial Psychology. The Council fully appreciates the shortage of nurses and the difficulties which hospitals have in obtaining sufficient nursing staff, but it is convinced that wastage during training would be reduced and the great burden at present borne by Tutors would be eased by the application of this Test,

which has been devised solely with a view to eliminating at the outset of training those candidates who are in fact untrainable. This is one of the vital pieces of work, still to be concluded, which the Council hands over to the keeping of the future Council.

The Committee has been in close touch with the Association of Head Mistresses before deciding on the subjects of the new General Certificate of Education which will be acceptable to the Council for entry to the nursing profession when this takes the place of the existing School Certificate, and when the Council is in a position to reintroduce a minimum educational standard for potential student nurses. The Council has gone further than this, and has agreed in principle that a student nurse who holds the General Certificate of Education in the subjects of Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene will be exempt from Part I of the Council's Preliminary Examination, provided the examinations have not been taken by the candidate before the age of 17. The Syllabus in the subjects agreed on with the Association of Head Mistresses for the General Certificate will shortly be presented to the Secondary School Examinations Council for consideration.

A number of times during the Council's present term of office the Minister has been approached regarding the laying

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