

National Union of Trained Nurses.

Mariebella Fry Bequest.

SINCE the last report of the Mariebella Fry Bequest we have received the news of the death of Miss Rimmer, who was an original Trustee and a valued member of the National Union of Trained Nurses.

Owing to reduced dividends and to increased administrative costs, it has been possible to make grants to two of the applicants only.

The resignation of Miss H. Bell was accepted with regret, and she no longer resides in the Bristol district, but Miss Cordiner has kindly consented to take her place as Chairman.

Increasing duties have made it impossible for Miss Young to continue as Hon. Secretary, and Mrs. Feneley has kindly consented to undertake this work: In the future all communications should be sent to Mrs. Feneley at Avon Lodge, 8, Parry's Lane, Bristol, 9. We are sure it will be the wish of all members to place on record their appreciation of Miss Young's work.

Members are reminded that it is possible to obtain grants from the Evelyn E. Eden Fund, and application must be made to the Hon. Secretary, Benevolent Fund Committee, College of Midwives, 57, Lower Belgrave Street, London, S.W.1.

The persons at present eligible for grants from the Benevolent Funds are former members of the N.U.T.N. whose names were on the books at the time of dissolution as having paid their subscription in either 1921, 1922 and 1923, and whose total annual income from all sources (including lodging, etc.) does not exceed £200.

Grants are given in cases of illness only.

Application for grants *must be made in February or March of each year*, on the official form which is procurable from the Hon. Secretary of the administrative body (late Somerset and Bristol Board).

They are *only made for one year, and if a fresh grant is required a fresh form must be procured and filled in in February or March of the year in which it is required.*

Reminders will not be sent out in future.

The administrative body will take into consideration the length of membership when making grants.

National Hospital Service Reserve.

The Ministry of Health announces that applications for enrolment in the National Hospital Service Reserve in England and Wales up to the end of November—a fortnight after recruiting first opened—totalled 894.

The Reserve is at present limited to trained nurses not now in practice and men and women willing to train as nursing auxiliaries. The total of 894 volunteers was made up of 88 trained nurses and 806 auxiliaries.

The South-Western Hospital Region recorded the highest number of enrolments—171. The Liverpool Hospital Region came next, with 127.

Flights Cure Whooping Cough.

WE WERE MUCH INTERESTED to read in the *Manchester Guardian* that the Solomon Islands medical department, confronted with a growing epidemic of whooping cough, recently took 24 children suffering from the disease on flights over the Pacific. For an hour they cruised at 10,000 feet, while anxious parents waited below. In the first six cases the whooping spasms wholly disappeared, and in eight others a considerable improvement was shown. This was the first time that this form of altitude therapy had been used in one of the British Colonial territories.

The General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

Future Changes in the conduct of the Council's Examinations.

I. The Council has recently had under consideration the question of the future conduct of the Preliminary and Final Examinations. The Council is of the opinion that the formal Oral Examination does not fulfil, for the following reasons, the purpose for which such Examinations are usually required: (i) it does not give the candidate an opportunity to correct weaknesses in her written paper since the oral examiner does not correct, nor have available at the oral examination, the candidate's papers; (ii) the State Examinations are qualifying examinations only and an important function of an oral examination, which is to place candidates in order of merit, is not therefore required.

The continuous increase in the number of examination candidates, although greatly to be welcomed, is causing difficulty in obtaining a sufficient number of suitable examiners who are able to give the time required for the Council's Examinations, and in finding the requisite large number of hospitals able to provide satisfactory accommodation for both the Oral and the Practical Examinations three times during the year.

It has therefore been agreed that *as from and including the June, 1950, Examinations* the time allocated to the Practical and Oral Nursing Examinations shall be increased and the formal Oral Examinations in Anatomy and Physiology and Hygiene, Medicine, Surgery, etc., shall be discontinued. Oral questioning will, as it does at present form part of the practical nursing examination for both the Preliminary and Final Examinations and the length of the Practical Examination will be increased as under:—

Preliminary—From 30 minutes to 40 minutes.

Final—From 40 minutes to one hour.

II. The Council has also given consideration to the question of the inclusion in the Preliminary Examination Syllabus of a section on an Introduction to Psychology. In December, 1946, the Royal Medico-Psychological Association agreed to hand over to the Council the conduct of their Examinations, and one of the decisions reached during the negotiations was that the Council should include such a section in the Preliminary Examination Syllabus; and it was felt that such an addition to the Syllabus would be of benefit to all student nurses. The approval of the Minister of Health has now been obtained to the inclusion of a section on "Introduction to Psychology" in Part II of the Preliminary Examination Syllabus, and *as from and including the June, 1950, Examinations* optional questions on Psychology will be included in the question papers for Part II of the Preliminary Examination. *It will be a requirement as from and including the October, 1951 Examinations that candidates applying for entry to Part II of the Preliminary Examination shall have had instruction in the section on an Introduction to Psychology contained in the Syllabus.* This section becomes Section III (a) of the Syllabus of Subjects for Examination for each part of the Register.

The minimum number of lectures which must be given in this subject is six. It is not intended that the qualifications of the teachers shall be specifically laid down by the Council, but for the guidance of Hospital Authorities it is recommended that instruction on this subject should be given by one of the following:—

- A Professor or Lecturer in Psychology, or
- A Registered Sister Tutor holding a diploma granted by a University on the successful completion of an approved Sister Tutor Course, or holding the former Teacher's Certificate of Battersea Polytechnic, King's College of

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