

## Nursing Echoes.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER paid a private visit on November 15th to the nurses' Staff College founded by King Edward's Hospital Fund for London. Twenty-four trained nurses and sisters from twenty-two different hospitals who are studying the work of ward sisters were presented to the Duchess, who saw some of them discussing their plans for an ideal ward and others giving a practical demonstration of ward-teaching.

SHORTLY AFTER THE RESIGNATION of the Matron, Miss Caroline Hall, at Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, her sister, Miss Cherry Hall, too, has resigned.

Known to hundreds of "Guinea Pigs" whom she nursed there during, and after, the war, she is one of a family of nine sisters, all of whom entered the nursing profession. This is probably a world record. Three went to work at the Queen Victoria Hospital.

Miss Cherry Hall has been on long leave, on account of the serious illness of her brother, in Ireland.

THE RIGHT HON. LORD MORAN, M.C., M.D., F.R.C.P., has accepted the office of President of the Health Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute, which is to take place at Margate from April 22nd to 25th, 1952.

THE NEW SOUTH WALES decision to amend the Nurses' Registration Act by lowering the age for starting training from 18 to 17 is deemed ill-advised by a considerable section of expert opinion in Australia.

One of the foremost Sydney hospital matrons, Miss Shaw, for instance, says that it is too early an age, and points out that the system of "cadet nursing" introduced at certain hospitals, for girls under 18, has been a failure, the young girls leaving before completing the course.

Another aspect of the matter, to which attention has been drawn, is thus stated: "There is also the patient's point of view to be considered. When youth comes face to face with intense suffering, strict discipline and hard work, the result is too often a rapid toughening-up process. Natural sympathy is checked, work is 'just work,' and patients are merely a wearisome duty."

## Red Cross Award.

THE KING HAS BEEN graciously pleased to approve the following award in recognition of distinguished services in Malaya:—

### The Royal Red Cross

To be an Associate of the Royal Red Cross, Second Class  
CAPTAIN MARGARET PRATT (209058)

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S ROYAL ARMY NURSING CORPS.

The citation states:—

Captain Pratt has been in charge of the Operating Theatre, British Military Hospital, Kinrara, and of necessity her hours of duty have been long and irregular—all the more trying owing to the nature of the climate and the arrival of bandit casualties, usually late at night.

Captain Pratt's skill in organising the Operating Theatre has been a big factor in the successful treatment of casualties and routine surgical cases, while her cheerfulness has been a stimulus to all ranks. . . .

## British Medical Association.

### Prizes for Nurses.

THE COUNCIL OF THE British Medical Association is prepared to consider the award in 1952 of prizes of the value of 20 guineas for the best essay, and 10 guineas for the second best essay submitted in open competition by each of the following categories of nurses:—

- (i) Student Nurses.
- (ii) State Registered Nurses working in a hospital.
- (iii) State Registered Nurses not working in a hospital, i.e., District Nurses, Private Nurses, etc.
- (iv) State-enrolled Assistant Nurses.

The subjects of the essays for 1952 are:—

Category (i) "Why did you decide to take up nursing? Why do you think some nurses give it up?"

Category (ii) "What can be done to make the most efficient use of trained nursing staff in hospitals, with special reference to the avoidance of wastage?"

Category (iii) "Discuss the risks of conveying infection in the course of your work and the steps you would take to prevent it."

Category (iv) "The nursing care of the incontinent patient."

The purpose of these Prizes is the promotion of systematic observation among nurses. In awarding the Prizes due regard will be given to evidence of personal observation. No essay that has previously appeared in the medical press or elsewhere will be considered eligible for a Prize.

Nurses who are undergoing a course of training at a hospital are eligible to compete under category (i); nurses registered by the General Nursing Council are eligible to compete under categories (ii), (iii) or (iv), whichever is appropriate.

If any question arises in reference to the eligibility of a candidate or the admissibility of his or her essay, the decision of the Council of the British Medical Association shall be final.

Should the Council decide that no essay entered is of sufficient merit, no award shall be made.

The essay should be typewritten if possible, but a legibly written manuscript will receive equal consideration. It must be written in the English language, unsigned and have attached to it a note containing the name and address of the candidate and the category into which he or she falls. Essays which, it is suggested, should consist of 2,000 to 5,000 words, must be forwarded so as to reach the Secretary of the British Medical Association not later than March 31st, 1952.

Preliminary notice of entry for this competition is required and a special form for this purpose is obtainable from the Secretary, British Medical Association, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.

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