

can only be of one quality—the best which is within each one of us to give. This best in our profession will differ greatly with the individual, but collectively it will form a practical rainbow, the colouring of which will permeate its way like an infection into the very pulse of the community, bringing about a pleasing and desirable result.

M. B. M.

### Western Union Public Health Committee.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL of the Brussels Treaty Organisation has issued the following communique:—

“The Brussels Treaty Public Health Committee held its seventh session at Marseilles on March 20th, 21st and 22nd, 1951, under the chairmanship of Professor Parisot, head of the French delegation.

“The Committee continued its study of the protection of the civil population from the health point of view in time of war and drew up a programme of work for the coming months.

“The Committee reviewed the programme of exchange of medical and para-medical personnel of the five countries which enabled some 40 doctors and specialists in 1950 to travel in Western Union countries to study the general administrative structure of public health services.

“Other subjects discussed included the standardisation of control of foodstuffs and proprietary medicines.

“Finally, the Committee took note of the entry into operation within the five Western Union countries of a uniform system of Health Control for Sea Traffic. These measures complete the work of the Public Health Committee in this sphere since a similar organisation for the control of air traffic has already been established.”

#### Unified System of Health Control over Sea Traffic.

By agreement amongst the five Brussels Treaty Powers—Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom—a unified system of Health Control over Sea Traffic entered into operation on March 1st, 1951, as the result of which, for practical purposes, the five countries will constitute a single territory as in the case of air traffic.

Allowance being made for any necessary administrative adaptation by each of the Five, the Maritime Declaration of Health will be waived in the case of all ships, whatever their flag, plying between the ports of Western Union countries (including the Atlantic and Mediterranean ports of France) on condition, however, that these ships do not call at the port of any other country (including Gibraltar) on the way.

In normal health circumstances, there will be no necessity for such ships to wireless a request for free pratique.

The following measures will, therefore, apply to all such vessels:

(a) The vessel will show the appropriate international flags or signal lights to indicate the state of health on board on approaching the port.

(b) If no case or suspected case of infectious disease is present or has occurred on board during the voyage, the vessel may proceed immediately to her berth—subject

to any requirements of the Harbour Authorities or the Customs.

(c) Immediately free pratique is granted (frequently this is done before or as soon as the vessel ties up), the normal boarding by agents and other authorised persons, the disembarkation of passengers and the unloading of cargo may then, so far as the Port Health Authority is concerned, proceed.

(d) During the stay of the vessel in the port, the Port Health Authority may board and inspect the vessel at any time and if infectious disease is discovered take any necessary action as permitted under the regulations of the country in which the port is situated. The Authority may also examine, and if necessary detain or remove to hospital, any person on board who is suffering or is suspected to be suffering from an infectious disease, or who is verminous, and may impose such other preventive measures (e.g. disinfection, surveillance, etc.) as may be considered necessary.

(e) The master shall provide any information on the request of the Port Health Authority and notify the occurrence of any sickness suspected to be of an infectious nature.

(f) The procedure for the issue of international certificates of deratisation or exemption from deratisation at designated (approved) ports will remain as at present.

Under abnormal or exceptional circumstances (e.g. in the event of a port in a Western Union country being declared infected with one of the “Convention” diseases or a case of serious infectious disease being present on a vessel), the Port Health Authority will act in accordance with the port health practice of the port of arrival.

### The Passing Bell.

Major J. W. M. Waters.

WE DEEPLY REGRET TO ANNOUNCE the death on March 9th, 1951, at Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital, Millbank, London, S.W.1, of Major Joan Winifred May Waters, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

Major Waters trained at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury, Kent, from January, 1932 to January, 1936. She joined Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service in September, 1937, and served in the Middle East, India and at Home.

George Frederick Wates.

WE WOULD WISH TO EXPRESS our very sincere sympathy with one of our keenest Fellows of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., Mrs. George Wates, S.R.N., in the great sorrow she suffers in the passing of her beloved husband, George Frederick Wates, on March 21st, 1951, at the age of 93 years.

Extremely versatile, the outstanding activities he so much enjoyed were music and literature, and he was always greatly in sympathy with the Nurses' cause, and had from time to time contributed to THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING in a literary capacity.

At the service to his memory held in the Janet Hoare Memorial Church, Harrow, followed by cremation at Golders Green, Miss Dorothy de M. Warren D.N.(Lond.), Vice-President, attended as the representative of the British College of Nurses, Ltd.

After so many years of an ideally happy union, our thoughts go out indeed to our brave colleague in her bereavement that she may be comforted.

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