

I again wish to express my sincere appreciation of the assistance and co-operation generally I have received from the Education Department, Education Boards, teachers, School Committees, and Dental Clinic Committees, all of whom have helped materially towards our success.

In conclusion—and as this will be my last opportunity prior to my retirement—I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation of the ready assistance that has been given me at all times by yourself, heads of Divisions, and your staff generally.

THOS. A. HUNTER, Director, Division Dental Hygiene.

PART VI.—NURSING.

I beg to submit my annual report for the year ending 31st March, 1930.

NURSES AND MIDWIVES REGISTRATION ACT, 1925.

At the two general nursing examinations held in June and December there were 362 candidates, of whom 327 were successful, while from overseas twenty-two nurses were admitted to the register.

A forward movement is being made with regard to nurse-training by the approval of certain small hospitals as limited training-schools by which means pupil-nurses may have a year spent in a small training-school counted as six months towards her three-years training in a larger institution.

It is also hoped in time by amending regulations to institute a system of affiliation between Hospital Boards enabling a nurse to take two and a half years of her training in one institution, with the remaining six months in a larger hospital. This plan was strongly recommended by the Committee of Nursing Education of the International Council of Nurses at the Montreal Conference in July as a means of ensuring a greater degree of uniformity in the standard of nursing throughout the world. It serves to overcome the disability under which nurses trained in a very small hospital suffer when brought in contact with those who have had the benefit of wider experience.

There were three examinations during the year for the State registration of midwives—in April, August, and December—when 130 were added to the register. From overseas only one midwife was admitted to the register.

In examinations held at the same time for maternity nurses 107 were successful and became registered.

NURSES AND MIDWIVES REGISTRATION BOARD.

There were four meetings of the Board held during the year.

Personnel.—The personnel of the Board is the same as for the previous year—*i.e.*, Dr. M. H. Watt (Chairman), Dr. W. Young, Miss E. P. Tennent, Miss H. Newman; and Miss J. Bicknell, Registrar.

Teaching-apparatus for Training-schools.—The Board gave consideration to the question of teaching-apparatus, and a list of suitable charts and models was forwarded to all training-schools for midwives and maternity nurses, with a request that certain items in the list be procured and a recommendation that others should be procured where possible.

Training-schools.—Various hospitals and annexes were approved as training-schools for nurses, midwives, and maternity nurses, the approval of the Board having to be withdrawn from one or two institutions which had proved unsuitable as training-schools.

Appointment of Examiners.—Various medical practitioners and nurses were appointed examiners under the Nurses and Midwives Registration Act, 1925.

Limited Training-schools.—A syllabus of training was adopted for use in hospitals approved as limited training-schools.

Training of Nurses.—The Board gave lengthy consideration to the question of the amount of unskilled work being done by probationer nurses during their training, and the matter was referred to the Department of Health for investigation and is to be dealt with again by the Board.

Training of Midwives and Maternity Nurses.—This question has received considerable discussion and consideration, and as a result of this the Board has decided to make very considerable alterations in the training of midwives and maternity nurses, which alterations will considerably restrict those institutions permitted to train midwives. The regulations providing for these alterations are in course of preparation.

POST-GRADUATE COURSE FOR NURSES.

The second post-graduate course commenced on the 1st March, 1929. Nineteen nurses enrolled. Of these, three had bursaries from the Health Department, and eight bursaries from Hospital Boards, the remainder coming at their own expense. The standard of work throughout the year was good, and the students were keenly interested in the wide avenues of their profession which were opened before them.

The Department again wishes to express its gratitude for the whole-hearted co-operation given by the Wellington Hospital Board, the Mental Hospitals Department, and the various nursing organizations in Wellington. This enables the students to obtain a comprehensive knowledge of hospital administration in its various branches and of public health work.

It has been very gratifying, in visiting the various hospitals and health districts where students from this course are located, to hear those in charge of them speak very highly of their work. Increasingly it has come to my notice that, despite the financial outlay involved, nurses throughout New Zealand interested in the advancement of their profession are planning ahead to enable them to take this course.