

Salaries of Nurses

Comparison of Rates. Recruits for Profession

(From N.Z. Herald," June 18th, 1919.)

A return showing the salaries paid to nurses in the public hospitals of the four centres has been prepared by the secretary of the Dunedin Hospital Board. Details are as follow:—

NURSES.				
	Dunedin.	N. Canterbury.	Wellington.	Auckland.
First year	£26	£26	£20	£26
Second year ..	30	36	25	32
Third year ..	40	46	35	40
Fourth year ..	60	60	75	55
Fifth year ..	—	—	65	—
Sixth year ..	—	—	75	—
WARD SISTERS.				
First year ..	£90	£100	£90	£90
Second year ..	100	115	100	—
Third year ..	110	130	110	to
Third year ..	—	—	120 ⁺	120
Fourth year ..	—	150	—	—
	+Maximum.			

Night Sisters.—Dunedin, £125; Wellington, £120; Auckland, £10 extra to ordinary salary.

Special Sisters.—Dunedin, £120 to £136; Wellington, £120; Auckland, £10 extra.

Matrons, Subsidiary Hospitals.—Dunedin, £100 to £150; North Canterbury, £150.

Sub-Matron.—Dunedin, £175; North Canterbury, £150; Wellington, £140; Auckland, £175.

Lady Superintendent.—Dunedin, £275; North Canterbury, £275; Wellington, £250; Auckland, £240.

The secretary also wrote to the above-mentioned boards: "There has been considerable difficulty in Dunedin recently in obtaining probationers to fill the vacancies, and I shall be glad to know if you are experiencing a similar difficulty in obtaining probationer nurses.

Auckland replied: "This board has no difficulty in obtaining pupil nurses. There is always more than sufficient on the waiting roll to fill vacancies as they occur."

Wellington replied: "There does not appear to be any particular dearth of applications for the positions of probationers. It appears to be about normal. The only notable fact in connection with the nurses appears to be that after they have completed their four years' training and passed the hospital and State examinations they are inclined to leave this board's service, either getting married or taking up private nursing."

North Canterbury replied: "At the present time the board is experiencing no difficulty in obtaining the services of young women desirous of being trained."

The above is of interest. Some time ago the Inspector-General of Hospitals was requested by several of the hospital boards to recommend a uniform scale of salaries. The difficulty of exact uniformity was pointed out, but the scale recommended gave an impetus to improved pay, and was on much the lines of this return.

In no case has the desire of the hospital board to improve either the conditions of living, of hours of work, of periods of leave, or of rates of pay been discouraged by the governing authority, the Public Health Department. The scale of pay of the nurses in the Government service has just been raised with a substantial immediate increase on account of the increased cost of living.

Notice is directed to the copy of an advertisement for Native Health Nurses, which will give an indication of the new scale. It must also be remembered that nurses in the Public Service come under the Superannuation Act. The question of superannuation of nurses is dealt with on another page.