

is ill, the hospital has to carry on without her. The nurses' holiday is four weeks; she could have an extra week without pay."

Miss Bagley:

"Probably no Hospital Board would object to the inconvenience or the slight additional expense incurred in the exchange."

Miss Muir:

"I would suggest that information be obtained from the different centres where there is possibility of exchange along the lines suggested by the Otago branch, and the matter be brought up at the next Conference; that the Executive of this Council gets what information possible from the centres."

Miss Holford:

"It was really only that we recognise the great advantage that accrues to the members of any profession by this interchange of members from one country to another, and we brought this forward for a ruling. We feel that the nursing profession must go ahead, and we all have to have a start. It might be years before we materialise it, but we want to bring this as a progressive movement before the members of the Association."

It was moved, seconded and carried: "That this meeting express approval of this remit in recognition of the advantages that would accrue."

Miss Muir moved, and Miss Moore seconded, as an amendment: "That the Executive of the Association gets in touch with organisations in other countries with a view to ascertaining whether they would be in sympathy with an interchange of nurses, and obtain their views on the subject."—Carried.

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"That Branch Councils should, on suitable occasions, draw attention to the need on the part of the public for still more improved midwifery service, pointing out that more double qualified nurses should seek efficiency in this branch for the purpose of maintaining the ranks of matrons, sub-matrons, and training sisters in Obstetric Hospitals—such positions being worthy of the best nurses and offering

larger scope, better salaries, and improved conditions in the future."

A member: "It is becoming a very difficult matter to maintain the ranks with interested and suitable nurses. The remit would seem to suggest that salaries may be the trouble. There is not really a more responsible position in the whole nursing world than a matron of an Obstetric Hospital, which is a training school. The position is difficult enough with a bed state of 12. With a bed state of more, the responsibilities and difficulties increase. Perhaps the reasons why the positions in the first place are so exceedingly difficult in New Zealand, are the unsuitable buildings which were established as hospitals in the beginning. All our institutions are suffering from lack of sufficient staff accommodation and that is the root matter. I am afraid that we as an Association cannot successfully deal with this except recommend that the Department should increase the salaries of matrons, sub-matrons and responsible sisters at St. Helen's Hospital. The Department is so alive to the need for better buildings and better staff accommodation, that there is no need to send any message to it from the Association. It is a matter for Cabinet. Cabinet is taking up the matter this session. We can only await their decision. All that this Association can do, as far as I can see, at present, if the Council thinks it suitable, is to make some recommendation in the way of improving salaries."

Mrs. Kidd moved, and Miss Holford seconded: "That the remit be put as it stands."

This was discussed in connection with the subject of discussion concerning salaries, the result of which was that the Department of Health was to be approached.

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Mrs. Kidd moved, no seconder: "That in view of the cheap, convenient transit offered by service car, the Government be approached with a request for a reduction in fares for nurses travelling by train, either to cases or on holiday."—Lapsed.