

members to get the demand accepted? Does Headquarter/Council seek suggestions from members for the kind of action to be taken.

Appointment of Legal Experts

How far TNAI engages legal experts to work towards getting a proper identification for nursing profession through necessary amendments of enactments in Parliament. How can we convince the Government for proper status of nursing profession in India or at par with our fellow nurses abroad.

I don't know how far Council and State Executive Committees will look into these burning points, but I shall welcome comments from the members. I have no intention to hint towards any particular member but what I have expressed is in general to improve the efficiency of our Association. However, I beg pardon if it has touched the feelings of any body directly or indirectly.

Jullunder

Mr. M.L. Soni

Dear Madam,

I have seen in the TNAI Journal September issue a write-up about myself. I am sorry to point out that on page No. 215 my name is given as Mrs. N. Sarkar instead of Miss N. Sarkar. Therefore, I request you to kindly correct this great mistake and announce this in the next issue of Journal. I am very glad and obliged to you that you have done so much for me. Please accept my heartfelt thanks.

Calcutta

Miss Nira Sarkar

(The error in prefix arose due to confusing brief prepared by our correspondent. However, we regret the error.)
—Ed.

WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROSURGICAL NURSES

The next International Congress of the World Federation will be held in San Paula, Brazil in 1977 in conjunction with the 6th International Congress of Neurosurgical Surgeons of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies. For further information contact:

Mrs. Rosanne Mazzola,
Secretary, World Federation of Neurosurgical Nurses, 277, Forest Avenue, Paramus, New Jersey 07652. U.S.A.

OPHTHALMIC NURSING—A CHALLENGE TO NURSES

by

Mr Banarasi Dass

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The question before us is what can be done for the prevention and cure of eye diseases in our country with limited resources. In our future planning, to meet the needs adequately, we have to evolve new techniques and mobilise new resources. With the opening of many new ophthalmic centres and mobile eye clinic units, the number of eye diseases' patients should have declined, but surprisingly it has increased, thus it requires immediate attention. It is not possible to increase the number of ophthalmologists in a short period but we can certainly enhance the programme of eye care by organising and conducting course for the ancillary staff in the country.

India has the largest number of visually handicapped people in the world and these keep on increasing every year. The College of Nursing of Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, Punjab has taken up the challenge of conducting the ophthalmic nursing training for graduate nurses. The training period is of six months. This course is first of its kind in South East Asia. It has also been recognised by the Indian Nursing Council as well as by the Punjab Nurses Registration Council. This training has been especially organised and conducted on sound principles and is remarkably village oriented to meet the needs of our rural community. We have already completed two sessions with gratifying success and have started the third session from 1-8-1975.

We feel that qualified ophthalmic nurses can play a vital role in the community and the hospitals where they come in contact with large number of patients. They can be very good potential teachers to create consciousness and understanding among the people about

the care of the eyes. People at large, still do not pay much attention towards their eyes. They do not mind to spend money on vices like drinking and smoking which are hazardous for eyes and some times it can even make the person permanently visually handicapped. Such persons ultimately will be burden on the family, the society and the nation as a whole.

India has done a great deal for the prevention of communicable diseases and for the promotion of health of the people. But much has to be done yet for the cure of the curable blind and rehabilitation of the incurable blind. If we can evolve a programme for the preservation of eye sight on national level it will certainly be a major contribution towards the national economy and in the direction of prevention of blindness. We all know that prevention is better and inexpensive than cure, sometimes people simply do not know that what sort of food or medicine is needed for keeping the eyes in good healthy condition. If there are regular eye checkups of school children and villagers, then many of them can be saved from getting blind partially or totally.

The urgent need is to help the people to realise about the eye troubles and to train more ancillary workers to help the ophthalmologists with such type of work which can easily and safely be entrusted to them. By doing this many more people can be served effectively without delay, who otherwise may become blind. It will also provide an employment to many young promising people. For this, we need the encouragement and support of every one who thinks that ophthalmology is a challenging service to the nation and the mankind.