

Participate and Learn

by Sister Ancilla

ON the 1st of November, 1960, in the Lady Hardinge College Convocation Hall, the Refresher Course for Matrons was inaugurated by Sri Tandon of the Ministry of Health, in the presence of a distinguished gathering. The group of Matrons, numbering 21, were chosen by the Central Government from the various States of India, to study the developing trends in present day Nursing and Nursing Education, under the able guidance of Miss Roberts, W.H.O. Nursing Adviser to Government of India, Indore, M.P.

The rapid and giant strides made in the medical field today, has necessitated skill and knowledge of a better standard, both in the medical and nursing departments. Moreover, the launching of the Nation-wide programmes for better health and sanitation for the people of India, has created wider fields and branches for members of the nursing profession in which to go forth and help.

Bearing these projects in mind, it is indeed a great advantage to be able to attend Refresher Courses which help to keep those in authority up-to-date with the needs of the time, and, above all, enable them to give whole-hearted co-operation to the various programmes that are in vogue today. It was indeed with these sentiments of gratitude and the desire to learn that the Matrons met in New Delhi and in good earnest set about

their task. Covering a period of 4 weeks, the programme was heavy but quite interesting and educative. Throughout the course stress was laid on Public Health, and we were given to see how public health could be integrated in the present day set-up in our hospitals and schools of nursing. We had the added advantage of being in Delhi where we were given the opportunity of listening to eminent speakers and obtaining first hand information. Subjects included were Public Health and its integration, Nursing Education, Hospital Administration, Professional Adjustments, Psychology and Communication Arts. Visits and field Trips were instrumental in helping us to understand our subjects better, and to create interest. Much of our time was spent in working on projects which, though in the beginning were difficult, proved in the end to be enlightening and useful. It was interesting to note the valuable help given by those Matrons with years of experience, in making the discussions very lively and informative; at the same time opportunities were thrown open to all to help as best as possible with the new programmes in the present situation.

It should be the earnest desire of every member who is placed in a position of authority, be it as Matron, Sister Tutor or Ward Sister, to avail herself of the earliest opportunity to learn and to keep abreast

with the times, so as to make the maximum contribution to the profession, and to play her role to the best of her ability.

Refresher Courses conducted in places such as Delhi, Bombay, Madras, give the added advantage of educational facilities being the best all round. In Delhi not only was nature most pleasant in its weather and aesthetic beauty but the capital city had much to offer us both of educational and historic value. We were also much impressed by the whole-hearted co-operation given by the members of the medical and nursing team to help to make the Refresher Course really worthwhile. We did indeed feel that the Nursing Profession here has earned a status which is not so deservedly given to it in other States of India. It is up to us to create that status and high respect for our profession by living up to our ideals, and ever striving to keep abreast with the knowledge and skills that are in use today.

Our grateful thanks go to the Union Ministry of Health and the WHO for making this course possible, and to all these who so graciously co-operated to help with the programme. To the Medical Superintendent, the Matron and the Staff of Lady Hardinge Hospital, New Delhi, go our sincere thanks for making our stay so pleasant and comfortable.

Towards Malaria Eradication — (Continued from 39)

Still later, after the interruption of the local transmission is accomplished and substantiated, further watch against any possible reappearance of the disease will be the concern of the general rural health services.

The Malaria Eradication Programme in India is the largest of its kind ever to be undertaken in

the world, considering both the complexities of problems to be dealt with, the area to be covered, and population involved. But in spite of numerous difficulties, the progress so far made has been extremely encouraging, and it is apparent that in due course of time, the objectives of the campaign will be amply fulfilled.

With the progress of the Malaria Eradication campaign in the country, India stands on the threshold of a new era. Every step taken forward in this direction means not only prolonging the lives of millions in this country, but opening of ways towards economic prosperity and freedom from want and disease that every human being lives for and dies for.