

Suitable candidates may be called at their own expense for interview at Delhi. (b) Selected candidates will have to join immediately.

N.B. :—The applications should be typed or written in clear hand with name and address in Block Letters.

- (i) Name and Postal Address.
- (ii) Age, date and place of birth.
- (iii) Education, School College attended. Place, date and Examination passed.
- (iv) Examination. Number of high examination taken, subjects taken and results.
- (v) Nursing Education and Post Graduate Courses, Training School, Place and date.
- (vi) Registration Number, Province and Date, Nurse, Midwife, Health Visitor and any special training.
- (vii) Professional experience. T.N.A.I. Membership and No.
- (viii) Post applied for.
- (ix) Have you any family responsibilities? If so state nature other than financial.
- (x) Married, single or widow.
- (xi) Names and full addresses of three persons, not related to you to whom you are well known. One of these must be a matron under you have worked, and one if possible a School Principal.

## PROMISING FUTURE FOR THE MALE NURSE.

### Over 23,000 Employed in Britain's Hospitals.

BY MAY MARSHALL,

*Associate Editor of "Nursing Mirror", (London).*

#### **Training**

The male nurse has now created for himself an honourable, indisputable place in Britain's hospitals. This is due partly to the urgent demand for more nurses, which has given the man with a flair for tending the sick, his chance of acceptance as a professional nurse; and partly to the fact that many men who served in the Armed Forces as nursing orderlies, stretcher bearers and ambulance attendants during World War II, discovered they had such aptitude for nursing duties that they were willing to train fully after their war services had ended.

There is still prejudice against them among some of the older nurses, but, curiously, this is not shared by progressive-minded matrons who find that co-educational nurse training schools stimulate friendly competition between young men and women students. They praise the men's work in the wards, particularly with mental patients. A matron of a famous Scottish hospital recently reported that she found her male students and trained nurses outstandingly successful in the children's wards.



That the male nurse has come to stay as an integral part of the hospital staff is borne out by the increasing numbers now entering the profession. In 1938 in Britain only about 10 per cent of nurses employed in hospitals were men; today over 20 per cent of the total so employed are male. In spring of 1949 there were 9,723 trained male nurse and, 5,731 male student nurses, working in hospitals full time. In addition, there were 2,269 male State Enrolled Assistant Nurses and 226 male pupil Assistant Nurses on a full time basis. The total working part-time was only 335, but this is because when a man takes up nursing seriously in the United Kingdom, he makes it his permanent career, and does not forsake it when he marries. Including nursing orderlies, the total number of men employed full-time in nursing duties in Britain's hospitals was 23,058—and it is reported that since then the numbers have risen.

The training of the male nurse is fundamentally the same as for his woman colleague. Normally, male entrants to the profession are between 18 and 30 years of age, though men with obvious ability or previous experience in the Armed Forces, may be accepted after the age of 30. General training takes

three years (in some hospitals four years) and involves as well as theoretical work, practical work in the wards and the passing of the State Preliminary Examination, and the State Final Examination. If he passes these successfully, he becomes a "State Registered Nurse", is entitled to use the qualification "S. R. N." after his name, and normally graduates as Staff Nurse.

The curriculum for general training includes medical and surgical nursing, the care of acute and chronic physical ailments and genito-urinary and venereal diseases of male patients. His syllabus is the same as that for the woman nurse, except that diseases peculiar to women are excluded. Neither as student nor trained nurse does he work in women's wards.

In the field of mental nursing, men have proved themselves very skilled for many years; here the training takes three years and involves a certain amount of general nursing, with emphasis on the care of the in-patient suffering from mental or nervous illness. Practical training includes the application of modern methods of treatment (such as shock therapy, electric and surgical treatment), and active duties in the rehabilitation of mental patients (occupational, recreational, physical and educational therapy).

The Preliminary State Examination in mental nurse training is the same as that for general nursing, and need not be taken a second time if the student mental nurse is already general trained, when also he can complete his mental training in two instead of three years. On passing the State Final Examination in mental nursing he becomes a Registered Mental Nurse and may stride ahead to the highest posts in this branch of institutional nursing, the dual qualifications of general and mental training are very valuable assets. During training his curriculum varies in no way from that of his woman colleague.

### **Nursing Salaries**

Since the National Health Service Act came into force in Britain in 1948, conditions of service and salary scales of all nurses, whether in the hospital or domiciliary services, are determined by the profession's own "Whitley Council", and all nursing salaries are now under revision, and in some cases increases have already been agreed. New salary scales for some grades of nurses have been announced, but as yet there is no over-all picture of new pay rates. It has emerged, however, that the male nurse is to receive higher pay than his woman colleague in a parallel position. This is a curious anomaly in a profession which has only grudgingly allowed the male entry, but the view may be taken that the man worker is likely to have heavier domestic financial responsibilities than the woman.

Theoretically there is no limit to the position to which the male nurse may rise to in Britain's hospitals, but there has never yet been a male matron of a general hospital.

In general nursing, the able male nurse may rise from Staff Nurse to Charge Nurse (equivalent to Ward Sister), and his pay will increase with his length of service. If he has marked teaching ability he may, after practical experience as Charge Nurse take the University Course for the Diploma of male tutor.

### District Nurses

The male nurse's professional organisation in Britain is the "Society of Registered Male Nurse", which has affiliated to it, the "Association of Male Student Nurses". This Society has fought hard for the male nurse in Britain and it has improved his status professionally. It is perhaps significant that only recently the Society approached Britain's War Office with the request that trained male nurses should be allowed to join Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps with commissioned rank, which is now permitted only to trained women nurses.

*By the courtesy of British Information Services.*

## FIRST AID IN LOVE

(From "PUNCH" with due acknowledgement)

## THE MALE NURSE

The subject of the male nurse is often a controversial one. I am of the opinion that the male nurse has a definite place in the nursing world, particularly in a country like India where progress has been slow, and prejudices are still strong regarding the relationship between men and women. I approve co-educational nursing training as I feel that it will do much to create good comradeship between our young men and women.

The following reasons have been advanced for the continued training of the male nurse :—

1. The social environment of some places is not suitable for women nurses to attend male patients.
2. The educational standard of women in some places is low. It is not easy for them to take nursing training.
3. The hospitals in some areas training male nurses, believe that male nurses are more suitable to nurse male patients, and that only male nurses are able to give real nursing care to these patients.

### Reasons against training :—

1. Nursing is a work better suited to women.
2. It is more difficult for male nurses to earn a living as such.
3. That a number of male nurses have taken up medical work and violated medical ethics.
4. Women students are more easily controlled and accommodated.

The following avenues are open to the male nurse :—

1. Mental Nursing.
2. Genito-Urinary Nursing.
3. Venereal Diseases Clinics and Wards.
4. Public Health Nursing to the male section of the Community.
5. Out Patients Departments.
6. Industrial Nursing.
7. Charge positions in male wards.
8. Operating theatre supervisors.
9. The Army, Navy and Air Force Medical Services.

It is recommended that the male nurse who wishes to hold an administrative or teaching post, should take post graduate courses.

In the Armed Services, male nurses gave good accounts of themselves in all spheres of action and there is no reason to suppose that they cannot continue to do so in civilian fields of activity.

LAKSHMI DEVI.