

Married women work successfully in spheres as pointed out in this article. But in other professions an individual does not have to be on duty as early or go off duty as late, or be on duty at night, as a nurse is required to do.

Ward Sisters, Assistant Matrons and Matrons frequently have to be on duty much longer than the hours specified as our hospitals do not have an adequate number of experienced staff. These facts have led to the general impression that not all married nurses especially those with young children, can meet the demands, the responsible positions in Nursing make upon a woman.

There is one important point made by Miss Puvaiiah which should not be overlooked that no statistics exist to bear out the objections raised against the employment of married nurses. This emphasises the supreme need for research in all conditions affecting the training and employment of nurses. In the absence of facts obtained and evaluated by scientific methods, we shall continue to accept generalisations.

We look forward to the time when a sufficiency of nurses will permit all nurses to work a straight 8 hour shift, when there are day nurseries and nursery schools to which they can entrust their children, when there are conveniently planned houses with labour-saving devices which prevent the burden of housework being added to a long day of nursing, when public transport is available in all areas and is reliable. When such facilities are available, married nurses will be able to take their place on the staffs of hospitals, the same as they do in the Western countries and the North America continent.

It is a long time since 1946 long enough for opinions to change and for new ideas to be accepted. We should like to know what our members feel now about the employment of married nurses.

War Against Cancer

(By Courtesy of British Information Service)

The increasing prominence of physics and chemistry in cancer research is chiefly due to developments in the technique and theory of radiotherapy, in the use of radio-active isotopes, in the field of microscopy and in the application of physical chemistry to the study of cancer-causing compounds.

Thanks to the endeavours of biochemists in Britain and elsewhere, a great new vista has been opened up by the successes of chemical remedies and it appears that a certain form of cancer can already be controlled by the administration of synthetic drugs. Before coming to any definite evaluation of the chemico-therapeutical method of cancer treatment, it will be necessary to record a larger number of cases than are now available and carefully analyse them over a number of years.

It would be undesirable to talk about a cure as it might be misinterpreted and lead to disappointment. This is why therapists are compelled to state their results with extreme caution. It is, however, highly encouraging, that a surgeon of Lord Webb-Johnson's standing did not hesitate to declare that between 70 per cent and 90 per cent, of those treated early for cancer of certain parts of the body have been

found completely free from any sign of the disease ten years afterwards.

Lord Webb Johnson, the President of Britain's Royal College of Surgeons and a founder member of the British Empire Cancer Campaign speaking of the successes of chemical remedies recently, declared that surgeons working on cancer research had the sole object of 'destroying themselves' as surgeons and becoming physicians to control cancer without operation.

The war against cancer is not waged in the limelight and few people outside the medical profession know that the foundation of the chemo-therapeutical treatment of cancer was laid by Prof Sir Ernest Kennaway, the outstanding United Kingdom cancer research worker of the present century, who 19 years ago discovered the first cancer-producing hydrocarbon. Since then, investigators in Britain have synthesized and tested more than 300 carcinogenic compounds; and in fact studies of these compounds and their mode of their action form the largest single group of investigations in progress in the 21 centres of research financed, assisted and co-ordinated by the British Empire Cancer Campaign.

CLINICAL CONTROL

There are two main avenues of approach to cancer research; One is concerned with the influence of viruses on the causation of cancer and the other with the study of chemical carcinogenesis and chemotherapy. The two latter are closely connected as it has been found that cancer-causing and tumour inhibiting capacity are closely linked properties of certain chemical compounds, somewhat in the same way that radiations in different dosages can either produce or inhibit the growth of malignant tumours.

The number of compounds tested runs now well into the thousands and the large number of papers on chemotherapy presented at the latest international congress shows how intense is the research for some drug which will selectively destroy cancer cells without doing any harm to the other.

Most of the new chemical compounds have been tested on rats and mice, some of them with encouraging results. The new drugs clinically tested on human beings include the synthetic ovarian hormone, stilboestrol, and its derivatives; these substances have enabled the clinical control of cancer of the prostate gland to be carried to a degree unknown before. Several years' work in the treatment of cancer of the prostate by the administration of a few pills daily of the drug confirmed its value in dealing with this type of cancer. Numbers of patients have been and are being rendered virtually symptom-free, which promises a hopeful although probably limited line of cancer therapy.

Artificial radio-active substances such as radio-sodium and radio-phosphorus are being used for tracer element experiments and for radiotherapy. These substances are now being produced in Britain's new atomic pile. They reach the cells in the living human body, and send back signals which will ultimately reveal the process of change from normal to malignant cells. This knowledge will supply medical science with a powerful weapon to fight malignant tumours.

REDUCED MORTALITY RATE

New developments in the field of radio-therapy include small condenser chambers by means of which the dosage can now be measured directly in the patient