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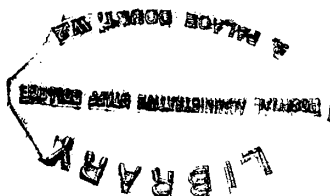
FOR LONDON

1951



DIVISION OF NURSING

STAFF
COLLEGE



147 CROMWELL ROAD . LONDON . S.W.7

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KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND

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KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND

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STAFF COLLEGE

*

1951

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MISS M. M. EDWARDS, M.V.O.

(Secretary)

STAFF COLLEGE

Principal: MISS C. H. S. DOBIE, S.R.N., S.C.M.,

*Diploma in Nursing, University of London; Sister Tutor's Certificate,
King's College of Household and Social Science.*

Assistant to the Principal: MISS G. A. RAMSDEN, R.R.C., S.R.N., S.C.M.,

Diploma in Nursing, University of London

Tutor: MISS E. WEST, S.R.N., S.C.M.,

Diploma in Nursing, University of London; Sister Tutor's Diploma, University of Edinburgh

Warden: MISS M. I. M. SEIVEWRIGHT,

Housekeeper's Certificate, Leicester Domestic Science College

FOREWORD

King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, founded in 1897 to support and extend the work of the London hospitals, has in the intervening half-century initiated and financed various projects intended to promote rising standards of nursing care and better conditions for nurses.

Since the inauguration of the National Health Service, that part of the annual income of the Fund formerly devoted to maintenance grants to hospitals has been released for other purposes. Among these, preparation and further training for various forms of hospital work are given high place.

Experience gained through the Fund's Nursing Recruitment Service has shown the great need to encourage young trained nurses to remain in hospital posts, and in particular to provide some sort of "liberal education" as preparation for the manifold responsibilities of the ward sister.

The advantages of bringing together on a residential course nurses and sisters from many different hospitals were realised. The Fund, therefore, bought a large house in South Kensington, which was opened as a Staff College early in 1949.

The first students entered the College on March 1st, 1949, and in the first year 71 completed the fifteen-week junior course and 19 the four-week senior course. During the same period, 200 candidates were nominated for the courses by nearly a hundred hospitals, and since that time applications have been well maintained.

The Fund has been fortunate in gaining the active co-operation of many hospitals in taking groups from the Staff College for visits and discussions, and individuals for practical work in the wards. In this way, those taking the courses are given exceptional opportunities for widening their knowledge of hospitals and of hospital practice.

AIMS OF THE COURSES

The main aims are to help the ward sister with three problems which confront her: how to give her student nurses all the ward teaching they should have, how to bring the best out of her team of helpers and to maintain easy staff relations, and how to manage her ward with the maximum of efficiency and the greatest economy of labour.

It should be made clear that the course is not a clinical one. It is assumed that the students are already competent to undertake responsibility for the actual nursing of their patients. Any clinical experience they may gain is an extra and should not encroach on the three main subjects: ward teaching, personal relationships, and ward management.

Perhaps the most valuable part of the course lies in the opportunity given for sisters from many different hospitals to meet together and discuss their common problems, reviewing their work in relation not only to their own hospitals, but also to the Health Service and community as a whole.

OUTLINE OF THE COURSES

THE PREPARATORY COURSE, which is for junior sisters and senior staff nurses, is of twelve weeks' duration. The first six weeks are spent at the College. The programme includes lectures, discussions, visits and practical demonstrations. It is designed so as to give time for individual reading and study, and the week-ends are free.

The next four weeks are spent in practical work, every student having the opportunity of visiting two hospitals for a fortnight, and of working in each under an experienced ward sister, observing her methods of administration and at the same time fitting in as a member of the ward team. During this time the students are resident at the College unless the hospital is too far away for daily visits.

The last two weeks of the course are spent at the College in discussion and consideration of their experiences; lectures and visits for which a special request has been made are arranged, and the whole syllabus is reviewed.

THE SENIOR COURSE is of four weeks' duration. It is based on the curriculum of the preparatory course, adapted to meet the needs of experienced sisters. The practical experience takes the form of visits to hospitals and special departments in order to study their work and organisation.

CURRICULUM

Each course is planned afresh, and no two courses follow quite the same programme.

The three main subjects are approached in somewhat different ways:

WARD TEACHING

Of first importance is the recognition that nothing can take the place of the teaching given in the wards, and that this is the ward sister's responsibility. Secondly, the students consider how methods of teaching can be improved, and opportunities found for it, in spite of the many claims on the ward sister's time. Thirdly, they are led to realise the friendly co-operation which should exist between the ward and the teaching department.

Lectures on teaching method and discussions with sister tutors and ward sisters, both individually and in groups, are arranged. In order that the sisters may be able to teach their student nurses in the wards in ways which are clear, concise and memorable, teaching practice under the guidance of a member of the staff is carried out in one of the London hospitals, which generously lends its practical classroom for the purpose. Here the junior sisters give practical demonstrations of nursing procedures to their colleagues, who criticise in a constructive way.

PERSONAL RELATIONS

Opinions differ as to the extent to which the art of maintaining good staff relations can be taught. Certainly those to be appointed to ward

sisters' posts should know how to carry authority, to give simple direct instructions, to correct impersonally, and to delegate responsibility to their staff nurses. The course aims at helping in all these ways, and also in the relationship between the ward unit and other departments in the hospital.

The principles of administration and leadership are discussed by a psychologist and others. A matron, doctor, house governor, sister tutor and other representatives of hospital departments speak on their own responsibilities, especially as they touch those of the ward sister. The services available to patients after their discharge are discussed with an almoner, a health visitor, a district nurse and with other social workers, and arrangements are made for each junior sister to spend a day in an almoners' department and with a district nurse or health visitor.

WARD MANAGEMENT

Experts are invited to speak to the sisters on subjects which are common to all, such as legal questions, the custody of drugs, catering and the service of meals, the care of linen, and the prevention of cross-infection.

In addition, it is realised that details of ward management vary from one hospital to another, and must be adapted to the type of work, number of staff and recognised practice of each hospital. After full discussion in groups, each sister has the opportunity to work out her own conclusions.

METHODS OF STUDY

Lectures are informal and are followed by discussion and free interchange of ideas. The method of group discussion is practised, and it has been encouraging to find that every member of the course is able and willing to contribute from her own experience much that is of value to the group as a whole. The sisters gain a great deal by considering their common problems and working out solutions in a comparatively leisured atmosphere. They may be asked as a group to set out these solutions in a "manual for ward sisters," or in some other special assignment, the preparation of which gives aim and incentive to their study and observation.

VISITS

Apart from the practical work, visits are made to various hospitals, both old, reconditioned and modern, as well as to hospitals undertaking special types of work, e.g., a mental hospital, a sanatorium, a geriatric unit. In these visits of observation, the students acquire first-hand information about ward equipment and the planning or reconstruction of the ward unit. Talks given by members of the medical, administrative and nursing staff during these visits add very much to their value and interest. Visits may also be made to convalescent homes, rehabilitation centres and other places to which patients may be sent from the wards.

THE COLLEGE

The Staff College is situated at 147 Cromwell Road, South Kensington, S.W.7, close to Earl's Court and Gloucester Road Underground Stations and several bus routes. It is, therefore, within easy reach of the London hospitals. It has a library and other rooms for study and recreation, and there are single bedrooms with hot and cold water and gas fires. The College can accommodate 26 students, though the senior course is generally limited to 20.

There is no charge for tuition, the whole cost of which is defrayed by the King's Fund. Candidates seconded by Hospital Management Committees and Boards of Governors are entitled to receive their gross salary, and are expected to make a small refund to the College in respect of maintenance. This is at the rate of £2 2s. od. a week for the preparatory course, and of £2 5s. od. a week for the senior course. It covers board, lodging and laundry. Students not eligible to receive gross salary are not asked to make any payment.

No formal certificate or diploma is awarded, but the Principal will at any time give a statement to the effect that a student has completed the course, together with a reference, if requested to do so. A student who, in the opinion of the Principal and the Staff College Committee, does not appear to be suitable for recommendation to a ward sister's post, may be asked to withdraw without completing the course.

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

The preparatory course is open to nurses who have had at least a year's experience in hospital after qualifying. This means that those taking it may be staff nurses or junior sisters.

The senior course is open to ward sisters of at least five years' experience.

Candidates should be of good educational standard. They may be:

- (a) Seconded by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors from hospitals which are training schools, and to which it is intended that they should return as ward sisters after completing the course, or
- (b) Nominated by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors which have already offered them posts in training schools on completion of the course, or
- (c) Individual applicants who wish to prepare themselves for ward sisters' posts in training schools. These will be required to provide references from their training school and from any hospital in which they may have worked since training.

Applicants should give evidence of a genuine intention to remain in some form of ward work in a nurse-training school for at least a year after taking the course.

Preference is given to candidates seconded by or offered posts in hospitals in the four Metropolitan regions, but a limited number of places are available to candidates from other parts of the United Kingdom and from overseas.

Enquiries may be addressed to:—

The Principal,

Staff College,

(King Edward's Hospital Fund),

147 Cromwell Road, S.W.7.

Tel.: FRObisher 1093 (College).

FRObisher 4165 (Students).

MEMBERSHIP OF COURSES

1949-51

PREPARATORY COURSE, MARCH, 1949

Miss M. Andrews	<i>Harrow Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Bottomley	<i>Chase Farm Hospital, Enfield.</i>
Miss F. Brash	<i>West Hill Hospital, Dartford.</i>
Miss J. Cash	<i>Central Middlesex Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Conmy	<i>West Middlesex Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Davis	<i>Guy's Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Eldridge	<i>Royal Portsmouth Hospital.</i>
Miss Y. George	<i>Dulwich Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Giles	<i>Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children.</i>
Miss P. Griss	<i>Harrow Hospital.</i>
Miss I. Herdman	<i>Oldchurch Hospital, Romford.</i>
Miss P. Iddenden	<i>St. George's Hospital.</i>
Miss P. James	<i>Guy's Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Jones	<i>Westminster Hospital.</i>
Miss E. Kelsey	<i>King's College Hospital.</i>
Miss B. Lucas	<i>Chelsea Hospital for Women.</i>
Miss Y. Pankhurst	<i>Lewisham Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Rees	<i>St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington.</i>
Miss M. Rogers	<i>The London Hospital.</i>
Miss J. Saunders	<i>St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington.</i>
Miss E. Scarlett	<i>Whipps Cross Hospital.</i>
Miss K. Smith	<i>Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone.</i>
Miss N. Taylor	<i>Whipps Cross Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Thomas	<i>The London Hospital.</i>
Miss N. Wingate	<i>Royal West Sussex Hospital, Chichester</i>

PREPARATORY COURSE, JUNE, 1949

Miss M. Cacsar	<i>St. Leonard's Hospital.</i>
Miss J. Clay	<i>Guy's Hospital.</i>
Miss R. Clements	<i>Putney Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Daly	<i>St. Giles' Hospital.</i>
Miss B. Dalling	<i>Guy's Hospital.</i>
Miss E. David	<i>Ashford County Hospital.</i>
Miss I. Davies	<i>Central Middlesex Hospital.</i>
Miss J. Davies	<i>Westminster Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Healey	<i>Hammersmith Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Hinchcliffe	<i>Worcester Royal Infirmary.</i>
Miss J. Howick	<i>Neasden Hospital.</i>
Miss A. Libbey	<i>King's College Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Monk	<i>West Middlesex Hospital.</i>
Miss H. Murray	<i>Miller General Hospital.</i>
Miss M. O'Reilly	<i>Gravesend & North Kent Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Plested	<i>Guy's Hospital.</i>
Miss C. Porter	<i>Hillingdon Hospital.</i>
Miss J. Verhoeven	<i>Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone.</i>
Miss E. Watt	<i>Lambeth Hospital.</i>
Miss G. Young	<i>Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham.</i>

SENIOR COURSE, OCTOBER, 1949

Miss M. Bond	<i>Church Missionary Society.</i>
Miss B. Brennan	<i>Acton Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Catterick	<i>Royal Free Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Elliott	<i>St. Bernard's Hospital.</i>
Miss L. Folds	<i>Leavesden Hospital.</i>

SENIOR COURSE, OCTOBER, 1949 (Continued)

Miss M. Godfrey	<i>St. Peter's Hospital, Bedford</i>
Miss K. Gover	<i>Edgware General Hospital.</i>
Miss K. Harman	<i>Edgware General Hospital.</i>
Miss E. Hart	<i>Shenley Hospital.</i>
Miss I. Hart	<i>West London Hospital.</i>
Miss N. Hitchcock	<i>Royal Free Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Johnson	<i>Central Middlesex Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Mileham	<i>Central Middlesex Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Moore	<i>Leavesden Hospital.</i>
Miss E. Revill	<i>National Temperance Hospital.</i>
Miss E. Simmance	<i>West Middlesex Hospital.</i>
Miss R. Watt	<i>National Temperance Hospital.</i>
Miss D. Willson	<i>St. Charles' Hospital.</i>
Miss H. Wyness	<i>Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital.</i>

PREPARATORY COURSE, NOVEMBER, 1949

Miss E. Baxter	<i>King Edward Memorial Hospital, Ealing.</i>
Miss D. Bonnett	<i>Bedford County Hospital.</i>
Miss G. Brady	<i>St. Mary Abbots Hospital.</i>
Miss G. Fry	<i>The London Hospital.</i>
Miss G. Gardiner	<i>St. George's Hospital.</i>
Miss O. Golding	<i>St. Giles' Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Janes	<i>St. George's Hospital.</i>
Miss A. Jones	<i>The Guest Hospital, Dudley.</i>
Miss E. Ince	<i>Prince of Wales's General Hospital.</i>
Miss B. Kent	<i>Miller General Hospital.</i>
Miss U. McIver	<i>Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital.</i>
Miss M. McLeod	<i>West London Hospital.</i>
Miss J. McLorinan	<i>King's College Hospital.</i>
Miss B. Meade-Waldo	<i>The Middlesex Hospital.</i>
Miss V. Morrison	<i>St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington.</i>
Miss I. Neasham	<i>The London Hospital.</i>
Miss A. Oram	<i>St. Helier Hospital.</i>
Miss K. Ransom	<i>The Middlesex Hospital.</i>
Miss F. Ritchie	<i>Watford Maternity Hospital.</i>
Miss A. Smith	<i>St. Helier Hospital.</i>
Miss D. Taylor	<i>Salisbury General Hospital.</i>
Mrs. D. Townley	<i>Central Middlesex Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Wynne	<i>Royal Sussex County Hospital.</i>
Miss F. Yonge	<i>King's College Hospital.</i>

SENIOR COURSE, MARCH, 1950

Miss E. Burge	<i>St. Bernard's Hospital.</i>
Miss C. Carle	<i>St. Augustine's Hospital, Canterbury</i>
Miss P. Foxton	<i>Southampton Borough Hospital</i>
Mrs. K. Harker	<i>North Middlesex Hospital.</i>
Miss D. Hubble	<i>Leavesden Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Jennings	<i>Bradford Royal Infirmary.</i>
Miss B. Johnston	<i>Harefield Hospital.</i>
Miss A. Lailey	<i>West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone.</i>
Mrs. M. Lloyd	<i>West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone.</i>
Miss B. McCabe	<i>Hounslow Hospital.</i>
Miss V. Martin	<i>Wanstead Hospital.</i>
Miss G. Medgett	<i>Buchanan Hospital, St. Leonards-on-Sea.</i>
Miss J. Near	<i>Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital.</i>
Miss E. O'Reilly	<i>King Edward Memorial Hospital, Ealing.</i>
Miss O. Protheroe	<i>St. Giles' Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Quinn	<i>West Middlesex Hospital.</i>
Miss E. Turner	<i>St. Bernard's Hospital.</i>
Miss D. Wheatley	<i>Haslemere & District Hospital.</i>
Miss J. Wilmshurs	<i>Royal Portsmouth Hospital.</i>

SENIOR COURSE, APRIL, 1950

Miss G. Bermingham	<i>St. Alfege's Hospital.</i>
Miss E. Conway	<i>St. Andrew's Hospital, Bow.</i>
Miss J. Duddy	<i>St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester</i>
Miss L. Easty	<i>Friern Hospital.</i>
Miss L. Fish	<i>Prince of Wales's General Hospital,</i>
Miss M. Fraser	<i>North Middlesex Hospital.</i>
Miss N. Gough	<i>St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford.</i>
Miss B. Gourlay	<i>St. Mary Abbots Hospital.</i>
Miss B. Griffiths	<i>West London Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Grimmett	<i>West Middlesex Hospital.</i>
Miss K. Hammond	<i>Whipps Cross Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Harper	<i>Archway Hospital.</i>
Miss B. Hill	<i>Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.</i>
Miss E. Kelk	<i>St. Bernard's Hospital.</i>
Miss C. MacKay	<i>Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital.</i>
Miss M. McSweeney	<i>Royal West Sussex Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Newnham	<i>Prince of Wales's General Hospital.</i>
Miss J. Owens	<i>St. Giles' Hospital.</i>
Miss F. Weeden	<i>Gravesend & North Kent Hospital.</i>
Miss J. Wilkinson	<i>West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone</i>

PREPARATORY COURSE MAY, 1950

Miss B. Bond	<i>Individual application.</i>
Miss V. Bouch	<i>Chase Farm Hospital, Enfield.</i>
Miss E. Butler	<i>St. Giles' Hospital.</i>
Miss A. Byrne	<i>St. Bernard's Hospital.</i>
Miss J. Candish	<i>Rooksdown House. Park Prewett Hospital</i>
Miss H. Carpenter	<i>Luton & Dunstable Hospital.</i>
Miss J. Clarke	<i>The London Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Collins	<i>Whipps Cross Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Culpeck	<i>The London Hospital.</i>
Miss B. Ellis	<i>St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington.</i>
Miss D. Gingell	<i>King's College Hospital.</i>
Miss B. Green	<i>Gravesend & North Kent Hospital.</i>
Miss D. Hutchins	<i>Westminster Hospital.</i>
Miss H. Kampe	<i>St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington.</i>
Miss M. Kent	<i>Whipps Cross Hospital.</i>
Miss G. Lodwick	<i>St. Stephen's Hospital.</i>
Miss E. Monk	<i>West London Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Scholes	<i>Leicester Royal Infirmary.</i>
Miss I. Seaney	<i>West Middlesex Hospital.</i>
Miss V. Senneck	<i>St. Heller Hospital.</i>
Miss D. Walne	<i>East Suffolk & Ipswich Hospital.</i>

PREPARATORY COURSE, SEPTEMBER, 1950

Miss L. Anderson	<i>Geelong Hospital, Victoria, Australia.</i>
Miss E. Bassett	<i>St. Bernard's Hospital.</i>
Miss F. Brewer	<i>South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth.</i>
Miss V. Brown	<i>St. Heller Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Buttimer	<i>Whipps Cross Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Chapman	<i>St. George's Hospital.</i>
Miss D. Charnock	<i>Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town, S.A.</i>
Miss M. Colhoun	<i>Gravesend & North Kent Hospital.</i>
Miss L. Garbett	<i>Harefield Hospital.</i>
Miss A. Gibbons	<i>The London Hospital.</i>
Miss J. Harris	<i>West Middlesex Hospital.</i>
Miss P. Heys	<i>West Middlesex Hospital.</i>
Miss V. Humphries	<i>Individual application.</i>
Miss M. Laity	<i>The London Hospital.</i>
Miss B. Lambert	<i>Royal West Sussex Hospital, Chichester.</i>
Miss B. Mahoney	<i>St. Stephen's Hospital.</i>

PREPARATORY COURSE, SEPTEMBER, 1950 (*Continued*)

Miss P. Paine	<i>Miller General Hospital.</i>
Miss A. Pereira	<i>King's College Hospital.</i>
Miss B. Phipps	<i>Oldchurch Hospital, Romford.</i>
Miss H. Rix	<i>Farnham County Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Schoni	<i>Miller General Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Siebert	<i>Whittington Hospital, Archway Wing.</i>
Miss J. Smith	<i>Whipps Cross Hospital.</i>

PREPARATORY COURSE, JANUARY, 1951

Miss P. Berry	<i>The Middlesex Hospital.</i>
Miss A. Betts	<i>King's College Hospital.</i>
Mrs. M. Brown	<i>St. Bernard's Hospital.</i>
Miss R. Craig	<i>Wellhouse Hospital, Barnet.</i>
Miss N. Evans	<i>Westminster Hospital.</i>
Miss J. Everitt	<i>West Middlesex Hospital.</i>
Miss R. Fitch	<i>Prince of Wales's General Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Fitzgerald	<i>Whipps Cross Hospital.</i>
Miss G. Harrison	<i>Royal Infirmary, Bolton.</i>
Miss S. Hill	<i>Farnham County Hospital.</i>
Miss J. Hodgson	<i>The London Hospital.</i>
Miss M. MacAskill	<i>St. George-in-the-East Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Magnusson	<i>National Hospital, Queen Square.</i>
Miss M. Nevell	<i>King's College Hospital.</i>
Miss M. O'Boyle	<i>Springfield Hospital.</i>
Miss H. O'Hara	<i>St. Nicholas' Hospital, Plumstead.</i>
Miss M. Phillips	<i>Mount Vernon Hospital.</i>
Miss P. Prior	<i>West Middlesex Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Read	<i>Charing Cross Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Sennhauser	<i>Mile End Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Sharpe	<i>The London Hospital.</i>
Miss G. Staines	<i>East Suffolk & Ipswich Hospital.</i>
Miss N. Steele	<i>Westminster Hospital.</i>
Miss K. Stowe	<i>Church Missionary Society.</i>
Miss A. Theodossiades	<i>Mile End Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Tobin	<i>King Edward Memorial Hospital.</i>

SENIOR COURSE, APRIL, 1951

Miss E. Beeson	<i>Royal Infirmary, Sheffield.</i>
Miss T. Carroll	<i>St. Bernard's Hospital.</i>
Miss B. Cloney	<i>Mount Vernon Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Connolly	<i>Whipps Cross Hospital</i>
Miss M. Crimp	<i>Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester.</i>
Miss M. Healy	<i>Brookwood Hospital.</i>
Miss D. Holden	<i>Whipps Cross Hospital.</i>
Miss L. Howells	<i>Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury.</i>
Miss W. Lendrum	<i>Auckland Public Hospital. New Zealand.</i>
Miss D. Pain	<i>Whittington Hospital, Archway Wing.</i>
Miss E. Poole	<i>Royal Infirmary, Sheffield.</i>
Miss J. Ronaldson	<i>Charing Cross Hospital.</i>
Miss O. Shead	<i>Metropolitan Ear, Nose & Throat Hospital.</i>
Miss M. Thornton	<i>West London Hospital.</i>
Miss E. Walsh	<i>Brookwood Hospital.</i>
Miss D. Westmoreland	<i>Royal West Sussex Hospital, Chichester</i>



A break for morning coffee



The Staff College



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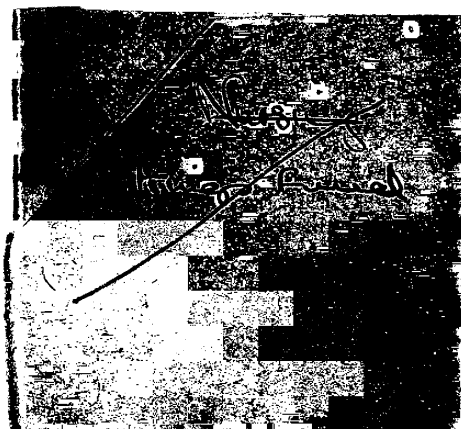
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Demetrius

King's Fund



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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased by 1.5 million (1990–1999) and is projected to increase by a further 1.5 million by 2010 (Office of National Statistics 2000).

There is a growing awareness of the need to develop strategies to meet the needs of the ageing population. The Department of Health (2000) has published a strategy for ageing, which sets out the government's commitment to improve the health and quality of life of older people. The strategy is based on the following principles:

- Older people should be able to live independently and actively in their own homes and communities.
- Older people should be able to participate in the decisions that affect their lives.
- Older people should be able to access the services and resources they need to live well.
- Older people should be able to live in a safe and secure environment.

The strategy also sets out a number of key objectives, including the following:

- To reduce the health inequalities between older people and other groups in the population.
- To improve the health and quality of life of older people.
- To ensure that older people are able to access the services and resources they need to live well.

The strategy is a key document in the development of ageing policy in the UK. It provides a framework for the development of policies and programmes to improve the health and quality of life of older people.

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