

Newspapers and Magazine Publicity.—Advertisements have been continued throughout the year putting health messages before the public through fortnightly changes in all newspapers and monthly changes in most of the circulating magazines of the country. Pulls of these advertisements, 20,000 copies, are obtained and circulated to schools and others interested, and used on our mobile and other exhibits.

Radio Talks.—The daily ZB network talks were not resumed during the year owing to staff shortages, but the thrice-weekly YA network talks on health subjects were maintained throughout the year.

DIVISION OF NURSING

NURSES AND MIDWIVES BOARD

During the year two very important reports or studies have been published concerning the training and the future development of the nursing profession.

The American study, entitled "Nursing for the Future," by Dr. L. Brown, of the Russell Saye Foundation, predicts the development of professional nursing on three lines, and uses the analogy of the engineering profession, in which there are three grades :—

- (1) The highly skilled University qualified professional engineer.
- (2) The well-qualified technical engineer who has been trained in the technical schools or colleges.
- (3) The general labourer, who may be a skilled workman, but usually has had little or no professional training in his work.

The British reports were the work of a small committee of experts, and covered the training, examination, and registration of nurses and midwives in Great Britain, emphasis being placed on the necessity for student status for future training so that pupils could be allocated for duty according to the required clinical experience rather than where staff, as such, are needed for patients.

A recommendation was also made that the special registers should be eliminated, and that the first eighteen months of a nurse's training should be devoted to a comprehensive review of all sections of hospital service ; specialization in one service to follow during the remainder of the period of training.

The Nurses and Midwives Board of New Zealand set up a special committee of the Board, together with certain co-opted matrons, to review the New Zealand syllabus and to make recommendations in regard to the future of the profession. It was recognized that in New Zealand with our small population, it would not be possible to introduce true student status, where the students are not depended upon to ensure ward staff. Therefore, in making recommendations to the Government, the Board has laid down certain clinical and theoretical requirements to ensure that nurses will receive a well-rounded training and be given student status as far as possible.

In addition, the Board has reviewed the regulations governing the practice of obstetric nurses, and hopes in the near future to review the syllabus governing the training of male nurses and of nursing aids.

The Board met five times during the year and reviewed reports on the various training-schools, following which action in regard to regrading was taken in some cases. A few disciplinary cases were dealt with in regard to registered nurses, and a considerable number of applications from nurses with broken periods of training received consideration.