

QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

Volume I

Issue I. (Sept., Oct., Nov.)

We are introducing the first issue of the Quarterly News Letter which will be mailed to all schools of professional nursing with your quarterly report form for the succeeding quarter. The contents of the letter will vary from time to time, and will include information on curricula, employment of graduate nurses, legal aspects of nursing, recruitment, as well as information and statistics from your State Board Office. We hope this report will prove both informative and helpful.

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STATISTICS

Nurses Licensed in Missouri:  
Professional Nurses.....34,612  
Practical Nurses..... 7,798  
Annual Renewal as of 8-15-58:  
Professional Nurses.....11,671  
Practical Nurses..... 5,742  
Examinations in July:  
Professional Nurses.....658  
Practical Nurses.....109

4 years of this Program's existence, 72 fellowships have been awarded to candidates for the masters degree. Nurses interested in receiving information concerning requirements for eligibility and details of the fellowships should write to Dr. Rosella Schlotfeldt, Chairman, NLN Fellowship Program, National League for Nursing, 2 Park Ave., New York 16, New York.

NEWS

Miss Eula Benton, R.N., Educational Administrator, Kansas Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education, reviewed licensure and examination procedures used by the Missouri State Board of Nursing.

Miss Mary Warstler, R.N., Director, Research Hospital School of Nursing, Kansas City, Mo., came to discuss the procedures involved in intercountry licensure as well as the new plans being developed for the school of nursing.

Miss Helen Kinney, R.N., Director of the School of Nursing, Southeast State College, Cape Girardeau, Mo., visited to review the progress of the Associate Degree in Nursing Program to begin in Sept. 1958.

Mr. Wm. D. Horn, Executive Secretary, Missouri State Nurses Association, made a "get acquainted visit".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The National League for Nursing has announced the continuation of the NLN Fellowship Program, which provides funds to subsidize programs of advanced study for individual qualified nurses. In the

CURRENT EVENTS

October 14 - Meeting of Schools of Professional Nursing. "The responsibility of the School of Nursing to the student who is preparing to enter the small community hospital".

October 6-10 - NLN Institute on "Simplified Methods of Teaching Nursing Skills", Kansas City, Missouri.

October 13-17 - NLN Institute on "Simplified Methods of Teaching Nursing Skills", St. Louis, Mo.

November 19-21 - Mo. League for Nursing Convention, President Hotel, Kansas City, Mo., in conjunction with the Mo. Hospital Association Annual Meeting.

December 8-11 - NLN-ANA Institute "Staffing Departments of Nursing", Shoreland Hotel, Chicago, Illinois.

May 11-15, 1959 - National League for Nursing Biennial Convention, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Missouri's Nursing Law

Missouri's first law pertaining to the registration of nurses became effective in 1909. Requirements were not difficult to meet according to our present day standards, and the law was permissive only, rather than mandatory. It included the well known Grandfather Clause to include those nurses who had been practicing prior to the enactment of the law, but who had not had the required number of years of training. In 1912, the new law required at least two years of training in a hospital, plus a new factor, an examination given by the Missouri State Board.

By 1921, it had become quite evident that the requirements for registration of nurses in Missouri were too lenient, and many of the schools of nursing did not meet currently acceptable standards. Therefore, a new law was enacted by the General Assembly, and became effective in June 1921. It was in this new law that the uniform standards for accredited schools of nursing were required. In addition, this law established the mandatory licensure of nurses, professional and practical, as well as the compulsory licensing of attendants. The 1921 law, however, met with considerable disapproval, and was repealed in 1923, to be replaced by a less demanding law. In 1939, a new revision was enacted elevating the standards of schools of nursing and the entrance requirements for students in these schools. From 1939 until 1953, effort was made to change the law as it existed, and to increase the requirements for registration of professional nurses, as well as to require the registration of practical nurses. When the present law was passed, becoming effective on August 29, 1953, the registration of practical nurses was provided for on a permissive basis, and registration of professional nurses became mandatory. This is the law under which we now function, portions of which are summarized below.

#### Licensure

All persons who practice professional nursing in this state for compensation or personal profit are required to be licensed by this state. It is not mandatory that practical nurses be licensed.

#### Schools

In correlation with this, all schools of professional nursing must be accredited by this Board. Provisions in the law also provide for the accreditation of Schools of Practical Nursing.

#### Identification of Status

Only those persons who are licensed in this state as registered professional nurses, and are currently registered, may use the initials R.N. Only those persons who are licensed and currently registered as licensed practical nurses may use the initials L.P.N. The use of the title, abbreviation, words, letters, signs or figures by individuals who are not licensed in Missouri is unlawful.

#### Re-registration

The licenses of every person licensed under the provision of the Nursing Practice Act must be renewed annually. A licensee who is practicing her profession must apply for re-registration prior to July 1st of each year. Upon payment of the renewal fee, the licensee will receive a registration card which should be used as evidence of her current status.

#### Creation of the Board

The current law has established a seven member board, appointed by the governor and ratified by the senate, to carry out and enforce the precepts of the law. This board consists of five professional nurses and two licensed practical nurses. The board holds an annual meeting required by law, and may call additional meetings as necessary. The Executive Secretary and other employees are employed by the Board.

#### Denial, Revocation or Suspension

The board has been given the power to deny, revoke or suspend any of the licenses it grants for any of the following causes:

1. Gross incompetence
2. Dishonesty
3. Habitual alcoholic intemperance
4. Use of habit-forming drugs
5. Any act derogatory to the morals or standing of those engaged in the care of the sick,
6. Fraud or deceit in procuring or attempting to procure a license.
7. Violation of any other provision of the Nurse Practice Act.

#### Offenses

Any of the following acts are considered to be a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail, or up to \$1,000 fine, or both:

1. Any act which aids another person to obtain a license fraudulently.
2. Practicing nursing under a fraudulently obtained license.
3. Practicing nursing as a registered nurse, or licensed practical nurse without being duly licensed.