

P.N.A. 1900

By 1921 Miss Gane approved of taking in Corfe, provided Nurse's salary was increased; we should then give up Eastbrook and Kibbear to Trull, but not Staplehay. "as we could not afford to give up that subscription". This was more or less agreed later, although most of Staplehay had, in fact, to be lost to Trull, and farms at Sweethay. Pitminster retained Brown's Elm and Spearcey. The total income of the Pitminster Association at this time was £182-19-11, with an expenditure of £177-11-0.

In April a bicycle was purchased for Nurse's use from Mr. Lock of Taunton; it cost £16-2-6. The subscription of the small-holders was queried, "as 10/- was a great deal to ask, considering that is the subscription of large farmers".

In 1922 the Nurse's salary had risen to £125 p.a. and she put in a long list of requirements, namely, old linen for dressings, a long sweeping brush, a one-gallon kettle and a new back tyre for her bicycle. Already! The Board of Health now required her to carry out albumen tests, so it was also noted that an 'Esbach's Albuminometer' must be obtained.

A change of name was announced in November, to "The Pitminster, Angersleigh and Corfe Nursing Association" and our nurse is at last named, as 'Nurse Moore'. A Miss Boynton, the Inspector (nice title) has informed the Secretary that Nurse Hutchings on Leigh Hill has retired and the Committee thinks that our Nurse Moore should have charge of her cases. The Committee then makes a new rule that non-subscribers who have lived in the parish for more than a year must pay a year's back-subscription if they need the Nurse.

By 1923 Nurse ~~Moore~~^{Moore} needs new curtains, sheets and tea cloths. Mrs. Branwell on the Committee, can supply curtains, but 6 sheets and 6 tea cloths must be purchased. The ^{full} subscribers now total 146, but the smaller ones have 'fallen off' from 133 to 100. "Nurse is anxious to have a motor-cycle" in 1924, "and had been offered one for £30, but the Association was not in a good financial condition, and the idea could not be entertained". In fact, there was an overdraft of £1 at the Bank and maternity fees might have to be raised to 25/-. It was agreed to hold a Meeting at Pitminster School in November to explain this. Nurse again renewed her desire for a motor-cycle (understandable if she was regularly cycling up Blagdon Hill), so "Mrs. Hawken is to lend Nurse her scooter to see how she could manage it". It seems surprising to learn that the Vicar's wife owns a scooter presumably mechanised, in 1924.

New collectors were appointed in 1925 and a slight bombshell was thrown by Miss Gane, still the County Nursing Officer, who said she was not satisfied with the manner in which Nurse Moore undertook her duties! In detail, she did not make an early start in the morning, objected to supervision and did not give enough attention to the old people - or, indeed, to any work which was not a maternity case. This sweeping criticism met with a cautious reaction from the Committee, who pronounced that they thought the duties were performed satisfactorily "for the most part", but there did appear grounds for complaint in some ways.

Perhaps as a result of this, the Committee meeting in May, 1925, made provision for future complaints against Nurse. They must "give full particulars, with the name and address of the person making the complaint". Nurse, in her defence, insisted that she had attended old age pensioners "considering the difficulty of obtaining addresses". If forced to start late in the morning, she said, she gave more time in the evening. In July a letter of resignation was received from Nurse Moore, (perhaps the inevitable outcome) giving the reason that she "had been offered a more important sphere of work".

Once again, in this month, the scale of fees did not meet County standards. Families must be charged 5/- a year, with a minimum of 4/- for a single person and those who volunteered 10/- were given a choice of title - either Honorary or Benefit Members. ('Benefit' has rather changed its meaning in 65 years). The Committee sent a ~~rather~~ dusty answer to Miss Gane, stating that in their opinion they ~~had~~ had exceeded the County demands by paying their nurse a salary of £1 plus a furnished cottage, uniform, etc. They also stressed their right to select the next candidate themselves.