

In 1931, Mrs. Vivian-Neal started her long service as Secretary. It was agreed that Nurse really should have a telephone, but shortage of funds meant that this must be postponed. The Midwives' Jubilee Fund was requesting a half-crown subscription.

Churchstanton took over Hayne, Prior's Park Farm and "sundry scattered along the top of the hill", in 1932, and Nurse's annual visits to the st risen to 1,431. A Bridge Tournament was held in February, 1933, at Poundisford Park, Mrs. Vivian-Neal's home, in aid of funds.

The Report for 1933 is ~~well~~ printed, "in spite of the financial difficulties which affect everyone just now". Nurse Sussex was still in office and Rev. Freeman still in the Chair, the rest of the Committee being Mrs. Helyar, Mrs. Done, Mrs. Freeman, Mrs. Mattock, Hon. Mrs. Jervis, Mrs. Barrett and Mrs. Brentford. There are seven collectors, for the districts of Corfe, Pitminster, Shoreditch, Poundisford and Sellicks Green, with two for Angersleigh. Nurse is now doing 1,697 visits a year - over 35 a working week - so she must have travelled many miles over her large area of the parishes. It was hoped to have water on tap at her cottage soon, in view of the proposed supply to the village.

Perhaps it is not surprising that Nurse Sussex fell ill herself in 1934, having had attacks of influenza and tonsillitis at Christmas and again in the Spring. A Nurse Denslow came in as a supply nurse and expenditure was also increased by a heavy bill for car-hire due to unexpected cases during Nurse's holiday. The sum of £50 was raised by three events - a Jumble Sale at Pitminster a Whimt Drive at Blagden and a Garden Sale at Leigh Court.

Nurse Sussex was finally forced by ill-health to resign in March, 1935, and, no other candidate appearing, the Committee agreed to accept one offered by the County Nursing Officer. Nurse Criddle was appointed, just through her Finals, at £100 a year, to rise gradually after her first year. It cost £4-15-0 to distemper her cottage, which also needed a little additional furniture.

At the A.G.M. in May an extract was read from the Report of the 1897 Jubilee Meeting, when Dr. Kinglake's bequest of £100 led to the formation of the Nursing Association. Mrs. Mattock said that she remembered it well (58 years ago!) and the first nurse was appointed that same year.

A useful development in 1936 was the holding of a Clinic at Nurse's cottage for mothers and babies, attended by Dr. Halliday. A water supply from the main had not yet been laid onto the premises and the Hon. Sec. wrote to the Rural Council if this could be soon and free of charge, provided the water-rate was paid by the Association; the same query was made about the provision of electric light. No answer was recorded for some time. The decision was still against installing a telephone, for the reasons that "the call-office was so near" (=Pitminster Post Office) and "also the fact that when Nurse is out, there is no one to answer the telephone." There's no answer to that.

New fees for non-members of the Association, according to the County Scale, were 40 shillings for midwifery (plus 5 shillings for insurance) and 30 shillings for maternity when a doctor was engaged. It was now realised that the Association should have been charging rent to the Nurse, whose salary was forcibly raised by the Midwives Act. (Punny the County didn't say before!) The rent came to £16, the raise to £17, so the nurse was better off by a whole £1 a year! They then kindly suggested that perhaps £8 was a fair sum to charge for rent "as £16 was high compared to some cottages a nurse might occupy". (This is only 50 years ago)

Furthermore, Nurse's old bicycle was completely worn out (not surprised!) and £7-10-0 had to be spent on a new one, less 10 shillings trade-in for the old one. At last, a Sub-Committee was set up to investigate the cost of running a small car. There was still no water laid on to the cottage.

A further cost in 1938 was 30/- for painting the interior of the cottage, but the Committee could not agree to re-cover the arm-chair and laid down that "Nurse should inform the Secretary concerning repairs before they are undertaken". However, good news at last about the water supply, which the Rural Council agreed to put in and the arm-chair was eventually re-covered by Hatcher's. "which seemed very much too much". The new water-rate was £10 a year, it was now suggested that Nurse should pay this, since her salary would eventually rise to £170 a year.