

Illustrations from the Wellcome Library

The Archive of the Queen's Nursing Institute in the Contemporary Medical Archives Centre

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The Contemporary Medical Archives Centre (CMAC) at the Wellcome Library has always endeavoured to draw attention to the importance of archives and to publicize their existence and availability, often by surveying and listing the records of medical bodies *in situ*. One of the hoards of records to come to the attention of the CMAC in its early days was that held by the Queen's Nursing Institute—QNI—(formerly Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, and from 1928 the Queen's Institute of District Nursing), and in 1982 one of the archivists visited QNI headquarters at Lower Belgrave Street to record the types and covering dates of the material. She found such a rich accumulation of records that, on the failure of a proposal that the QNI employ someone to sort and catalogue them fully, the CMAC undertook to survey and briefly list them.

It was a typical survey of an old-established body, in that the archivist had to hunt high and low through the building, delving into cupboards, filing cabinets and drawers to locate material which had been kept for many years, but it was atypical from the point of view of the long history of the bodies which had generated the material, and the detail and richness of the records. The Institute had organized district nursing and district nurse training for the British Isles from its foundation in 1889, and even after the introduction of the National Health Service it had played a role as agent for many local authorities. A record was kept of every nurse trained by the Institute (the "Roll of Queen's Nurses") and of each preliminary and annual inspection of every affiliated District Association and County Association. The Institute also provided pensions and relief for retired and disabled nurses, ran holiday and convalescent homes, and acted as an information point for enquiries on community nursing projects from around the world. As the state after 1948 took over responsibility for local health services, the charity district nursing associations became redundant, and many sent their surviving records or at least a final report, and often a history, to the headquarters, as did the regional federations of nursing associations. Other nursing and pension-giving bodies amalgamated with the Institute. All this material, received from outside or filed away at the end of its working life, had been sifted through, lent out and re-arranged for anniversaries or other

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celebrations. The confusion of records was on a grand scale, but even the very brief list excited interest among historians, and several researchers consulted material in the offices “under conditions which were far from optimum either from the point of view of the long term good of the records themselves or the convenience of the researchers”.¹ A historian, Mary Stocks, had already gone through the records for the centenary of district nursing celebrated in 1959, and a few years after the CMAC’s survey, the Institute gave access to Monica Baly for her *History of the Queen’s Nursing Institute*, published by Croom Helm in 1987 to mark the Institute’s centenary (dated from the appointment of the Provisional Council). Two years later, the Institute moved its headquarters from Lower Belgrave Street to much smaller accommodation in Albemarle Way, Clerkenwell. Concern for the fate of the records increased, and was fortunately matched with a realization of the part of the QNI that provision of suitable accommodation and research facilities was not possible at Albemarle Way. The CMAC visited, to find that “the bulk of records . . . appeared to be still there but in a very confused order”.² The QNI agreed in May 1991 to transfer the archives to the CMAC, and the first accession was collected in November of that year, but it was a further eighteen months before agreement was reached over deposit of the minute books, and they were not received until the spring of 1996. Having reached the decision to transfer their archive, the QNI has made sure that our holdings are as complete as possible, and, following a number of clear-outs of the offices, a total of six separate deposits of material were made—the latest in February 1998. This has resulted in revisions to the list, but it has been much appreciated as light is thrown on some of the more obscure aspects of the archive, and material was uncovered that had not been seen since that initial survey back in 1982.

Sorting and listing these papers has been a challenging and extremely rewarding task. The archive is complex, and after the vicissitudes recorded above, most of the records had long ago lost any trace of their original order. The Institute had always taken great pride in its self-consciously created records, splendid pre-printed leather-bound volumes in which to record the details of meetings, of affiliated associations and of Queen’s Nurses. A report of 1907³ compliments the secretarial staff on the minute books as “exceedingly well written, and contain[ing] the fullest detail” and the rolls of nurses and associations which “make provision for obtaining the fullest information”, and a glance into one of the early Council minute books confirms this: as well as very full minutes, the volumes contain memoranda, reports of the Institute committees, accounts, lists of nurses recommended for the Queen’s Roll, and even transcriptions of the annual reports (which is fortunate, since several of the early published reports are missing from the archive). However, the Institute did not appear to have been particularly careful with its day-to-day administrative records—the dull routine of filing correspondence. It is surely an indication of sloppy record-keeping that in 1906 during a conflict over the status of the Scottish Branch, the secretary was unable to locate the relevant records to support the headquarters

¹ Unpublished report by Dr Lesley Hall, CMAC, Aug. 1990, in CMAC files.

² *Ibid.*

³ SA/QNI/H.1/3.

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case,⁴ and the offer in 1909 by the first President, A B L Peile, to return his letterbooks to the Institute indicates that some honorary officers seem to have treated the records they created as their private property. By the time of a third report on the administration of the Institute, in 1946,⁵ the headquarters offices included a records room, but still in the offices themselves “a considerable amount of space is occupied by old correspondence, reports and out-of-date publications”, and the recommendation was that “all obsolete or unnecessary papers, books, etc, be consigned to salvage”. It is fortunate that the Institute staff seem to have had too great an awareness of and pride in the Institute’s history and its place in district nursing to obey this to the letter: a large number of “obsolete” publications were kept in filing cabinets, drawers and on the library shelves.⁶ However, very little correspondence survives from the years before 1946. A report in 1961⁷ announces with satisfaction that “regular spring cleaning of the records and dispos[al] of what is never likely to be of further value . . . is, in fact, already being done”.

It was simple enough to reconstruct the runs of minute books and “rolls” of nurses and of affiliated associations. Other volumes fell into series, and could be related to the whole by the end of the sorting process. It was the files set aside of “material for archive” or “historical material”, much of it sifted and annotated by Mary Stocks and her assistants for the 1959 history, which had completely lost their place in the archive, and it was hard to see the inter-relationship of financial records without a good deal of research. The Institute was—and is—a charity, but due to its origins it has an odd, almost semi-public, status. An analysis of its origins and history is necessary to understand its records.

It was incorporated by royal charter, since its core funding was the residue, after a gift of jewellery and a statue, of the huge sums collected from “the women of England” as a tribute to Queen Victoria on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of her reign in 1887. Since the money had been collected from women in all walks of life,⁸ it was felt that the residual £70,000 should fund something of benefit to women generally. Philanthropists had since mid-century been involved in the provision of home nursing for those who could not afford to pay an attendant. The prison reformer Elizabeth Fry had established the Protestant Sisters of Charity (later called the Institution of Nursing Sisters) in 1840, influenced by Pastor Fliedner’s Deaconess system and Kaiserswerth Hospital, and several orders, including the Society of St John’s House, were set up as a result of the Anglican revival inspired by John Keble and the Oxford Movement. William Rathbone of Liverpool (1819–1902) is credited with implementing the first “District nursing” scheme, having felt the benefit of trained nursing for his wife in her last illness. From his initial employment in 1859 of a single nurse to work in the city’s slums, a network of lady superintendents had been set up, each supervising a team of nurses for a district of the city. His major contribution was to ensure that the nurses had suitable training, for advice on which he turned to Florence Nightingale, and the links with Nightingale were strengthened

⁴ SA/QNI/S.1/13.

⁵ SA/QNI/H.1/6.

⁶ Listed in section P.

⁷ SA/QNI/H.1/8.

⁸ Flora Thompson in *Lark Rise* (1939) remembers the visit of the collector for the “women’s offering”, when even the poorest woman in the hamlet insisted on giving her penny.

SA/QNI/W.6/1

INSTITUTION
OF
Nursing Sisters,
16, BROAD STREET BUILDINGS, BISHOPSGATE STREET.
SUPPORTED BY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

Under the Patronage of
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN DOWAGER,
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER,
AND
HER GRACE THE DUCHESS OF SUTHERLAND.

DATE, *4th October* 1847

This Day the Sister *Harriet Rowe*
has been sent on the recommendation of *Earl Howe*
to nurse in the case of *Her Majesty the Queen Dowager*

Signed, *A. Richardson* Superintendent.

The Rate of remuneration for attendance of the Sisters is left to the parties employing them; but it is the hope of the Committee that by the liberality of the wealthy they may be enabled to grant their important assistance to those whose means are limited, also to the poor, which is the benevolent object of this Institution.

IT IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED:—

- 1st.—That the Nursing Sisters should in no case be informed of the sum paid to the Institution for their services, and that no fees be given them; as, from motives of delicacy, it is desirable they should not know when their services bring nothing to the Institution, or what amount of remuneration is made.
- 2nd.—From the same motives it is particularly requested that no present be offered to any Sister, each having entered into a solemn engagement with the Committee to refuse it, lest they should be tempted to feel discontent when any such reward to themselves is withheld. But a Superannuated Fund is open for general subscription, for the immediate benefit of the Sisters.
- 3rd.—Travelling expenses and washing defrayed by the family employing the Sister. In infectious cases, parties are requested to pay the Sister 15s. for lodging, as, for the safety of the Home, Sisters cannot be allowed to return to it until danger of infection has ceased.
- 4th.—If the services of the Sister be required beyond the period of six weeks, it is requested that at the end of that time, a communication be made, either by letter or personally, to the Superintendent at the Home, 16, Broad Street Buildings.

Figure 1: Standard form of the Institution of Nursing Sisters, relating to the assignment of Sister Harriet Rowe to nurse Queen Adelaide in 1849. (CMAC: SA/QNI/W.6/1, Wellcome Library, London.)

when he became a Member of Parliament in 1868 and spent more time in London. The two were consulted by Sir Edward Lechmere and the Duke of Westminster in the planning of a district nursing service for London in 1874–5, leading to the establishment of the Metropolitan and National Nursing Association, and so were

Private

Sir H. Ponsonby's scheme

Dear Mr Rathbone This is so important as involving the Queen in doing mischief & the difficulty of hanging anything good on to it is so great that I summoned one of our most trusted Hospital (lady) Lieutenants to talk it over with me last night. We found that "darker which was dark enough before": but this is what we thought:

1. Any pension should be according to length of service (to "deserving" Nurses)

Thus you throw upon the Hospital authorities the responsibility of keeping on undeserving ones

10, SOUTH STREET,
PARK LANE, W.

Oct 14/87

Figure 2: The first page of a letter from Florence Nightingale to William Rathbone, 14 October 1887, on the subject of Sir Henry Ponsonby's district nursing scheme. (CMAC: SA/QNI/F.1/6, Wellcome Library, London.)

very interested parties when discussion arose on suitable projects on which to spend the "Women's Offering".

The Rathbone-Nightingale correspondence on district nursing in Liverpool is in that city's Picton Library, but the QNI archive has correspondence and transcripts of letters on the subject of the Women's Offering,⁹ the Rathbone-Nightingale letters lovingly bound. The Queen had proposed in 1879 to provide awards for nominated nurses from London hospitals, using the resources of St Katherine's Hospital, founded in 1184 to serve the poor of East London but by now a source of honorary positions and grace-and-favour lodgings in Regent's Park. Upon the announcement in *The Times* of 19 August 1887 that the surplus from the Women's Offering was to be used to benefit nursing, a debate arose between contending claimants and proposals, and there was a strong court faction arguing for a system of honours and awards based upon St Katherine's. We can see from this correspondence that Florence Nightingale was grimly determined that nurses should be professionally trained and organized, and rewarded with appropriate salaries. William Rathbone's memorandum set out the terms: "a high standard of nursing, not only professional (by insisting on each nurse having at least a year's regular training in a hospital) but also moral",¹⁰ and this view prevailed. The Advisory Committee appointed by the Queen was chaired by the Duke of Westminster, who was already favourably

⁹ SA/QNI/F.1/4-8.

¹⁰ SA/QNI/A.1.

impressed by the arguments of Nightingale and her disciples, and was a co-trustee with Rathbone of the Nightingale Fund. The Institute was based at St Katherine's (and very much hoped that it might benefit from the hospital's resources¹¹) but was established on lines of which Nightingale approved, the Metropolitan and National Nursing Association providing not only a model but also the first training home, at Bloomsbury Square. Rathbone was the first vice-president, and his niece, Rosalind Paget, a trained district nurse and midwife, the first Inspector-General.

The semi-public status gave the Institute a very high profile. Its first patron was the Queen (Victoria), and since her death the position has always been filled by the Queen consort (at present Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother). Fund raising has been undertaken in the Queen's name since the establishment in 1897 of "The Queen's Commemoration Fund", marking the Diamond Jubilee of Victoria's reign. The ruling Council appointed in 1890 included all three of Victoria's daughters still resident in Britain, and a host of titled individuals. It seems that their titles did not save their correspondence from the dustbin during the post-war rationalization of the records, but the Institute's status did ensure that an appeal for help to the Public Record Office (PRO) in 1964, when the volume of inspection records must have been overwhelming, resulted in success. No pre-Second World War inspection report files exist among the papers in this archive; they were taken into the Public Record Office (at Class 30/63), where all the preliminary reports and all pre-1914 reports were kept, but only a selection of the later annual reports (it is assumed that the rest were destroyed). Reports from 1914 to 1948 retained in the PRO are those of all County Nursing Associations and associations covering large urban areas, and complete sets of records on specimen rural areas in Lancashire, Northamptonshire, Surrey and Sussex. As mentioned in the introductory paragraphs, some associations still worked through the Institute after the introduction of the National Health Service, and records of some inspections of these associations do survive in the Institute's archive in the Wellcome Library: 28 files on London associations, 76 from elsewhere in England, 15 from Wales, 7 from the Isle of Man and 3 from Northern Ireland.

However, it seems that information from the branch files of which this selection survives in the PRO was copied, or at least a précis was made, and so is available in the Archive—it is just somewhat difficult to find material on a particular branch. Two volumes of inspectors' reports from the 1890s were found,¹² which give details of the religious and social character of each area, population numbers, the number and type of cases nursed and details of nursing staff and arrangements for training, as well as comments by the inspectors. A volume of reports, 1933–1948, from South Wales¹³ is assumed to be that of the South Wales Council inspector, employed under the scheme for district nursing in Wales established in 1908,¹⁴ and gives similar details, but includes information on the type of support a district enjoys—the hard times after the First World War meant an end to reliance on charitable offerings,

¹¹ SA/QNI/A.2.

¹² Now listed as SA/QNI/Q.4/1-2.

¹³ SA/QNI/Q.5.

¹⁴ See SA/QNI/Q.10.

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and most associations had turned by the 1930s to support by provident schemes. Also each branch affiliated to the Institute between 1890 and 1939 was given a record in a series of registers (the Rolls of Affiliated Branches)¹⁵ which describe the type and population numbers of the area served, list the names of nurses employed and have brief details of inspection reports. Unfortunately, none of these volumes is indexed, so a search for a particular association is straightforward only if one knows roughly when it was affiliated. The inspectors' reports cover England and Wales, and include reports on training homes and summaries for the Scottish and Irish branches; there are Rolls of Affiliated Branches for England and for Wales.

Wales was given such separate treatment because an emphasis was placed on the employment of Welsh-speaking nurses in many parts of the country. District nursing in Scotland and Ireland, on the other hand, was organized through semi-independent branches. The Scottish branch was fiercely independent, and the records¹⁶ retained by the Institute reveal many disputes, notably that of 1906–7 over appointments of Scottish nurses to the Queen's Roll.¹⁷ The Institute policy of non-sectarian nursing came to grief in Ireland, as records of relations with the Irish branch¹⁸ show, Protestant districts refusing to accept the services of a Roman Catholic nurse, and *vice versa*. The partition of Ireland caused controversy, and a large amount of correspondence survives from the disputes over whether an island-wide branch should continue or be replaced by separate branches.¹⁹ Separation was eventually decided upon, but the records peter out at that point: the only post-1933 records in the Archive are the Northern Ireland inspection reports mentioned above, which date from the 1950s and 1960s. A very few publications bear witness to the fact that the work was still carrying on: a 1950 annual report of the Eire branch, and 1965 annual reports of St Patrick's Nurses' Home, Dublin, and of Lady Dudley's Scheme for Establishment of District Nurses in the Poorer Parts of Ireland.²⁰ The Scottish branch continues to function and retains its records at its headquarters in Edinburgh. Nothing is known of Irish branch records.

Affiliated associations in England and Wales met together in local federations to agree recommendations to the Institute, which were dealt with by a Federations Sub-committee.²¹ A file on post-NHS policy towards the federations survives,²² and a few minute books of individual federations,²³ mainly from the 1950s, but including records of the Federation of Metropolitan Nursing Associations, 1909–1921 and 1943–1964.

Records of individual nurses appear to survive well. Names of nurses who qualified for appointment as Queen's Nurses were submitted at six-monthly intervals to the Patron for approval (quarterly from 1910), and these lists of names,²⁴ signed by the Patron, give details of where the nurse trained and where she was serving at the

¹⁵ SA/QNI/Q.6/1-22.

¹⁶ SA/QNI/S.1.

¹⁷ See SA/QNI/S.1/8.

¹⁸ SA/QNI/S.2.

¹⁹ SA/QNI/S.2/4.

²⁰ SA/QNI/S.2/5/5-7.

²¹ See SA/QNI/D.

²² SA/QNI/R.1.

²³ SA/QNI/R.2.

²⁴ SA/QNI/J.2.



Figure 3: One of the illustrations in the Liverpool Queen Victoria District Nursing Association booklet *Queen's Nurses* [c.1900], captioned "carriage lent for a tubercular leg case". (CMAC: SA/QNI/X.38/1, Wellcome Library, London.)

time of submission. Upon approval, a nurse's details would be entered into the "Queen's Roll",²⁵ giving marital status, religious denomination, details of hospital training and nursing experience, district training, certificates and badges held, with what probably seemed a large amount of space for entries during her future career. It was found that it was insufficient space for all the details of the working life of a long-serving nurse, and additional pages are attached with later entries. From volume 12,²⁶ which commences in July 1905, the size of volume is greater, which gave the opportunity for a change in layout. More detail is given of the nurse's background, including father's occupation and her own previous occupation (all Queen's Nurses were female until 1946). We again see Wales treated as a separate entity, three rolls being set aside for entries from that country,²⁷ although the nurses entered in those rolls are also to be found in the main sequence. The "Wales" Rolls contain further details for some nurses, but mainly the information seems to be simply duplicated.

The larger volume format was still too inflexible to allow for details of very long-serving nurses to be entered in a suitable fashion, and in 1937 a more radical change was made, to card format. Every nurse serving at that time had her service details

²⁵ SA/QNI/J.3.

²⁶ SA/QNI/J.3/12.

²⁷ SA/QNI/J.3/57–59.

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transcribed onto a card: the longest-serving had been originally entered on the Roll thirty years before. Now when a nurse's service over-ran her card, the later details could be entered on a series of continuation cards. By the time the Institute ceased directly to train district nurses, there were thousands of cards in their filing room, and a couple of thousand files from the period 1963–1968 when the format had changed once again. When the Archive came to the CMAC, it was accepted that storage of the information in hard-copy form was impossible. Examples²⁸ were kept of each type of card for one year in every five, and of the files, and microfilm copies were made of the whole series²⁹ and of the index to the Rolls (both in volumes and on cards).³⁰

There are also registers of badges awarded to nurses, 1907–1945³¹ (every Queen's Nurse had to wear full uniform, including her badge, while on duty), and records of the presentations of Long Service Badges, awarded to nurses who had 21 years' service, 1962–1988.³² Earlier presentation ceremonies are reported in the Institute's publication *Queen's Nurse Magazine*, of which there is a full run at the QNI headquarters.

Records of representation of nurses were accumulated at the Institute,³³ since the General Superintendent and the Secretary of the Institute served on the Committee of the Association of Queen's Superintendents, which merged with the Queen's Nurses' League in 1949 to become the Association of Queen's Nurses (later the Association of District Nurses). The latter Association acted almost as a branch of the Institute, which delegated to it such matters as questions on uniform, salaries and conditions of work. It also arranged refresher courses for Queen's Nurses until 1955, when that function was transferred to the Education Department of the Institute. Minutes and reports of conferences of the Association of Queen's Superintendents in the archive cover the years 1932–1948,³⁴ added to which are minutes and reports from some of the regional groups of Superintendents, the Metropolitan and Southern Association, 1908–1921,³⁵ and the London and South East region, 1942–1948.³⁶ Minutes and reports of the Association of Queen's Nurses and copy minutes of the Association of District Nurses cover 1949–1971.³⁷

All Queen's Nurses were invited to attend the Institute's conferences, known as "Annual Meetings". Very few records of early meetings survive; only newspaper cuttings for anything prior to 1946 (for example, the report on the meeting in 1924).³⁸ Published reports were found for some meetings in the 1940s and 1950s,³⁹ and the text of two addresses given, one by Ronald W Raven in 1949 and one by Daisy Bridges in 1950. Files survive for meetings 1963–1989,⁴⁰ most containing the text of the address to the meeting, from such figures as Dame Sheila Quinn, Lisbeth Hockey, Sir Noel Moynihan and Baroness McFarlane of Llandaff.

²⁸ SA/QNI/J.7.

²⁹ SA/QNI/J.4–6.

³⁰ SA/QNI/J.1.

³¹ SA/QNI/J.8.

³² SA/QNI/K.2.

³³ SA/QNI/V.

³⁴ SA/QNI/V.2-3.

³⁵ SA/QNI/V.2/4.

³⁶ SA/QNI/V.3/4.

³⁷ SA/QNI/V.4.

³⁸ In SA/QNI/K.1/1.

³⁹ In SA/QNI/K.1/1.

⁴⁰ SA/QNI/K.1/2.

Apart from correspondence, the Institute's administrative records survive well. There is a full run of annual reports, 1899–1997,⁴¹ apart from a few gaps between 1901 and 1908, and minutes of Council and committees⁴² in great detail, including transcriptions of annual reports as described above. The Institute has retained minutes from 1968, which will be deposited in the CMAC once they are no longer required for administrative purposes. Correspondence survives only very patchily. Material relating to the establishment of the Institute was found with private letters of Florence Nightingale and memorabilia of William Rathbone donated to the Institute at a later date.⁴³ Letterbooks of A L B Peile,⁴⁴ the first President, and of Harold Boulton,⁴⁵ who served in turn as Honorary Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman of Council, cover the years 1890–1896 and 1903–1933 respectively, but loose correspondence from the Institute's early years is confined to exchanges with the private secretaries of the royal patrons⁴⁶ and two bundles of very small accumulations of letters and reports, 1890–1900.⁴⁷ Post-war correspondence with members of Council and Honorary Officers is still extant,⁴⁸ having not been subject to the weeding recommended by the report of 1946.

Financial records⁴⁹ were largely kept in bound volumes as the minutes were, which always increases the likelihood of survival. The Institute was always anxious to maximize the opportunities for attracting more money. The initial endowment brought in only £2,120 per annum, and the hoped-for monies from St Katherine's Hospital were never received. Individual trustees made donations to keep the accounts in the black: Sir Henry Tate's donation of £5,000 in 1890 is acknowledged in two letters among the small amount of correspondence which survives from the early years.⁵⁰ Fund-raising was done through a number of committees, and the records include registers of committee members and subscribers, as well as odd survivors such as a letter of 1912 complaining of unworthy claimants requesting places at tea with the Queen. Memorial collections were made for both Queen Victoria⁵¹ and Queen Alexandra⁵² after their deaths, the former entirely to supplement the endowment to the Institute, and the latter funding a "visible memorial" as well as a contribution towards Institute's Long Service Fund which had been established in 1925. In 1947, an appeal was launched to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Institute,⁵³ the proceeds of which also went to the Long Service Fund. As well as the separate records of all these funds, the archive contains general accounts, ledgers and cash books which can cover any of these or other funds. There are audited accounts for 1890–1954 (with some gaps), after which date a signed copy of the published accounts was attached to the minutes. The other financial records mainly date from before the Second World War.

⁴¹ SA/QNI/B.

⁴² SA/QNI/C-D.

⁴³ These have all been listed together as SA/QNI/F.1.

⁴⁴ SA/QNI/F.3/1–2.

⁴⁵ S/QNI/F.3/3–7.

⁴⁶ SA/QNI/F.2.

⁴⁷ SA/QNI/F.4.

⁴⁸ SA/QNI/F.6.

⁴⁹ SA/QNI/G.

⁵⁰ SA/QNI/F.4.

⁵¹ SA/QNI/G.6.

⁵² SA/QNI/G.8.

⁵³ SA/QNI/G.9.

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The work which the Institute undertook is recorded in its minutes, but it is useful to have some background correspondence and other records. Such items were scattered throughout "Historical" filing cabinets and "archive" files, but have now been grouped together by subject, mainly in Section H, which pulls together material on 33 different subjects ranging from relations with St Katherine's Hospital, 1888–1902,⁵⁴ and fund-raising donkey shows and dinners⁵⁵ through state registration of nurses⁵⁶ and the 1909 Jubilee Congress of District nursing in Liverpool⁵⁷ to uniform and badges,⁵⁸ male nurses,⁵⁹ dangerous drugs⁶⁰ and negotiations with the Greek War Relief Association, 1946–1963.⁶¹ The major work of education and training has as usual left few early records apart from the bound volumes discussed above. Examination papers survive only patchily,⁶² the earliest from 1924, and the only lectures for Queen's nurses date from the 1940s.⁶³ The introduction of the National Health Service raised many questions about the Institute's role, and its attempts to remain a major force in the provision of district nursing and training of district nurses were frustrated by the Labour government's desire to see state provision of such services. The section on education and training⁶⁴ contains many files on working parties and Ministry of Health initiatives as the two sides negotiated the position, ending with the complete withdrawal of the Institute from basic training.⁶⁵ Initiatives on the Institute's side included an integrated course of nurse education, organized jointly with Battersea College of Technology, the Royal Postgraduate Medical School and Hammersmith Hospital, combining training in general nursing, midwifery, health visiting and district nursing, and since 1968 the Institute has confined itself to post-basic training and research. The archive includes some reports on the work of the Institute's successors in basic training, and records of later QNI initiatives such as the sponsoring of a lectureship in community nursing at Chelsea College, 1978–1988⁶⁶ and the annual "Good practices in community nursing" conference at the University of Manchester.⁶⁷

A postgraduate centre, the William Rathbone Staff College, was established in 1960 in the former Liverpool Victoria District Nursing Association (LVDNA) training home, and the records of discussions prior to its opening, and minutes of the administration committees can be found in Section M. They include a visitor's book⁶⁸ which continues in the volume used for the same purpose by the LVDNA from 1900 to 1948. The records show how the College became a huge drain on the Institute's finances as inflation soared in the 1970s; it closed in 1975.

⁵⁴ SA/QNI/H.2.

⁵⁵ SA/QNI/H.4.

⁵⁶ SA/QNI/H.6.

⁵⁷ SA/QNI/H.9.

⁵⁸ SA/QNI/H.21.

⁵⁹ SA/QNI/H.28.

⁶⁰ SA/QNI/H.30.

⁶¹ SA/QNI/H.26.

⁶² In SA/QNI/L.1.

⁶³ In SA/QNI/L.1.

⁶⁴ SA/QNI/L.

⁶⁵ See SA/QNI/L.7.

⁶⁶ SA/QNI/L.12/1.

⁶⁷ SA/QNI/L.13.

⁶⁸ SA/QNI/M.14.

Queen Victoria's
Jubilee Institute for Nurses.

EXAMINATION for the ROLL of QUEEN'S NURSES
19th June, 1924.

- 1.—How would you test whether the water from any particular tap comes from the main or from a cistern? Enumerate the different sources of supply of water to large towns. In the event of an epidemic attributed to a polluted water supply, what precautionary measures would you advise householders to adopt?
 - 2.—What are adenoids? In what ways are they disadvantageous to the individual? What after-care is required by a school child who has had adenoids removed by operation?
 - 3.—You are called in to a case of precipitate labour. How would you, as a district nurse, deal with this emergency? What are the dangers to be guarded against?
 - 4.—Make out a sample page of your case-book and fill in the likely particulars of a 'bus-driver, aged 42, whom you have nursed through pneumonia, and who recovered.
 - 5.—In nursing a case of Cancer in an advanced stage, with foul discharge, what method would you adopt for the comfort of the patient and the household?
 - 6(a).—Give notes of a short "talk" to mothers on the importance of warmth for their infants.
- or
- 6 (b).—What are the functions of an Infant Welfare Centre? Describe what premises are required, also how weighing is carried out and recorded.

Questions 6(a) and 6(b) are alternative; only one should be answered.

Three hours is allowed for the examination.

Figure 4: Examination paper for the Roll of Queen's Nurses, 1924. (CMAC: SA/QNI/L.1/6, Wellcome Library, London.)



Figure 5: Front cover of the 1958–1959 report of the Malta Memorial District Nursing Association, founded after the Second World War with the help of the QNI. (CMAC: SA/QNI/U.3/20/1, Wellcome Library, London.)

Another venture which came to grief in the 1970s was the Institute's magazine, launched in 1904 as *Queen's Nurses' Magazine*. Only a couple of letters survive from 1904, but the minutes of the Office Committee⁶⁹ cover the decisions on the magazine until 1921 when a separate Magazine Committee was set up.⁷⁰ In 1957, the Institute attempted to solve the magazine's financial problems by establishing a limited company, the Queen's Nurses' Magazine Ltd, as recorded in minutes and correspondence in SA/QNI/N.3. The records also include a register of members of the company, and share certificates.⁷¹ From April 1958 the magazine was called *District Nursing*, but losses continued and the company was wound up in 1964. A Public Relations Department was then set up under the general Executive Committee to oversee publication, and in 1973 the magazine changed its name again, to *Queen's Nursing Journal*. Publication was discontinued in 1977.

⁶⁹ SA/QNI/C.2/15–19.

⁷⁰ See SA/QNI/N.2.

⁷¹ SA/QNI/N.4–5.

Even after the establishment of the National Health Service in 1948 had undercut the Institute's role, it was a centre of excellence for district nursing worldwide, and three boxes of correspondence⁷² survive with countries as diverse as Australia, India, the Philippines and Thailand, covering advice on setting up district nursing services, training personnel and negotiating with government ministries as well as descriptions of the services and the challenges encountered in the various countries. As usual, hardly anything has come to the archive from before the Second World War, but the 1940s and 1950s saw major projects undertaken by the Institute in Jamaica,⁷³ Malta⁷⁴ and Tanganyika,⁷⁵ and there is information here on services in the 1960s and early 1970s in most of the countries for which files have been kept.

A publications and publicity section has been created⁷⁶ to group together reports of Institute surveys and investigations, 1935–1971, memoranda for information of Queen's Nurses, circulars files and press releases, the QNI *Newsletter*, 1992–1998, publications about the Institute and about district nursing, training and funding, unpublished talks and articles, histories and biographies, posters and information about the films produced by the Institute. The films themselves, a list of titles of which is Appendix C of the list of the QNI Archive, have been deposited in the National Film and Television Archive. The publications about the Institute date from 1893, when A L B Peile wrote a description of "its object and work",⁷⁷ and the earliest of those about nursing and nurse training is Florence Nightingale's 'On trained nursing for the sick poor'.⁷⁸ Both these sections and that on funding contain works by outsiders, including magazine cuttings and reprints extolling the district nurse, as well as by Institute officers. Many subjects covered in the "Subject files", in correspondence with officers, in minutes and in the files on district nursing in other countries can also be found among these publications, and a subject index has been created to guide researchers.

The Institute took over the work of similar bodies from time to time, and the Archive includes the records of the Institution of Nursing Sisters,⁷⁹ founded as the Protestant Sisters of Charity in 1840 by the prison reformer Elizabeth Fry. The records came to the Institute in 1945, although there are no records of the Institution after 1939. Some letters on the establishment, and early regulations and bye-laws, can be found,⁸⁰ and there are 6 letters and reports on nurses' work, 1849–1888,⁸¹ including one from W M Thackeray, but the bulk of the archive is made up of volumes: the full run of Committee minute books, 1841–1939,⁸² a treasurer's book of donations and subscriptions, 1840–1842,⁸³ and

⁷² SA/QNI/U.

⁷³ SA/QNI/U.3/16.

⁷⁴ SA/QNI/U.3/20.

⁷⁵ SA/QNI/U.3/34–35.

⁷⁶ SA/QNI/P.

⁷⁷ SA/QNI/P.6/1.

⁷⁸ SA/QNI/P.7/1.

⁷⁹ SA/QNI/W.

⁸⁰ SA/QNI/W.1.

⁸¹ SA/QNI/W.6.

⁸² SA/QNI/W.2.

⁸³ SA/QNI/W.3.

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two registers,⁸⁴ one of nurses, 1840–1855, and one of cases, 1840–1845. There is a note by the Lady Superintendent in the front of each of these registers to the effect that other volumes in both series were sent for salvage during the Second World War.

The Nation's Fund for Nurses, founded in July 1915 by members of the Actresses' Franchise League to provide an endowment for the newly-founded College of Nursing and a "Tribute Fund" for the relief of individual nurses during sickness and disablement, was administered by the Queen's Nursing Institute from 1980 to 1995, but is now separate once again, and so its records, which came to the CMAC with the QNI Archive, have been listed separately, as SA/NFN.

Material deposited with the Institute which is relevant to the history of district nursing has been retained in the Archive. This includes histories and reports of individual district nursing associations (often the last report before an association was wound up) and examples of their provident scheme literature; reports and correspondence of the Nightingale Fund and of the establishment of the College of Nursing; and a manuscript volume with two parts entitled respectively 'Nurses work and nurses training by Florence Lees, with notes and additions by Henry Bonham Carter, Part II cont' and 'Report of Miss Florence S Lees on the Liverpool District Nurses'. The first part appears to be the end of Florence Lees's 1875 report⁸⁵ on district nursing in London commissioned by the National Association for Providing Trained Nurses for the Sick Poor, which led to the establishment of the Metropolitan District Nursing Association. Although the published report of the Association quotes from this report, it does not contain all the details found here. There is in particular much about the Ranyard Nurses.⁸⁶

The other deposited collections are personal papers and memorabilia of officers and members of council.⁸⁷ The most important of these is an interesting group of papers of Dame Rosalind Paget,⁸⁸ who was the first Queen's Nurse and the Institute's first Inspector. Memorabilia includes letters of appreciation from hospitals in which she worked in the 1870s, and letters from A E Sansom, John Couper, Stephen Mackenzie and Sir James Paget. There is correspondence with the Institute (possibly removed from the Institute's archives long ago) from 1904 to 1933—Dame Rosalind represented the Institute on the Central Midwives Board—and there are reports and statistics on maternal mortality in the 1920s, including an annotated copy of a report by Mary Beard of the Rockefeller Foundation on midwifery services in Britain.

The Queen's Nursing Institute Archive is a major addition to the holdings of the Contemporary Medical Archives Centre. It is a pleasure to have worked on

⁸⁴ SA/QNI/W.4–5.

⁸⁵ A copy of this report can be found in the archive of the Metropolitan and National Nursing Association in the Guildhall Library, London.

⁸⁶ For a brief history of the Ranyard Nurses, see Frank Prochaska, *Women and philanthropy in*

nineteenth-century England, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1980.

⁸⁷ SA/QNI/Z.

⁸⁸ SA/QNI/Z.1.

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it and to have made it properly accessible. Nearly ten years after Dr Hall's condemnation of the conditions under which one had to consult the records, I am sure that historians of nursing and allied subjects, as well as those enquiring into social conditions of the period, will find that the QNI archive has found an ideal home.