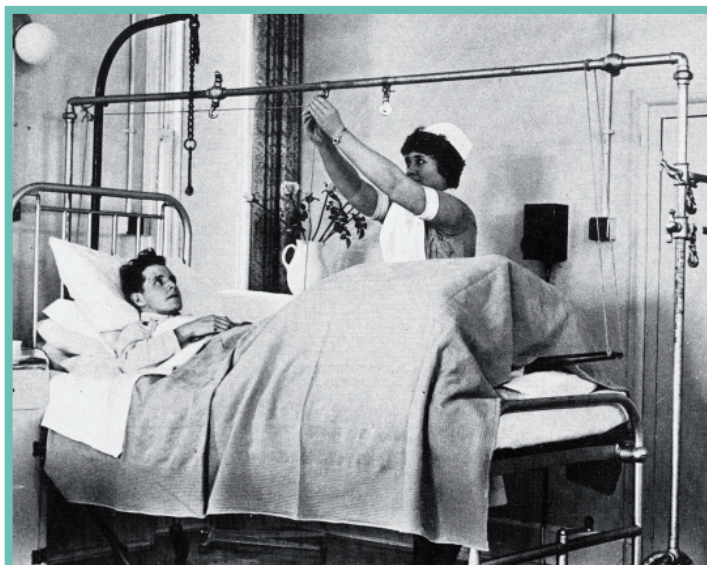


*Nursing Demands Qualities of Character and Personality but... to those who accept its challenge there is no profession more rewarding*

*(Photographs and text over the next three pages are from a local booklet developed around the early 1960s to encourage local ladies to become nurses. Kindly loaned by Donald Mackenzie.)*



# A celebration of nursing careers in the Western Isles



The nurse is engaged on skilled work of Christian service to other people and the opportunities open to British trained nurses have never been greater than now. Excellent posts are available at home, in the Commonwealth, and abroad. Salaries of all ages and grades are comparable with those in similar professions.

The attractions of nursing are not based on an easy life. Training entails study, concentration, a willingness to sacrifice a certain amount of personal convenience. But even in training, the nurse knows that she is doing useful work. She earns gratitude and esteem of those she helps.

The best way for the island girl to enter the nursing profession is through Lewis Hospital.

There are three substantial advantages: -

1. The first year's training is within easy reach of home

and friends.

2. Training is completed in Glasgow in one of the most progressive nursing schools in the world.
3. In the vital first year, the sister tutor can give individual tuition, when necessary, because classes are small.

Glasgow Royal Infirmary, with which Lewis Hospital is associated in group training, is an old established university teaching hospital.

Famous surgeons have worked there, among them Lord Lister and Sir William MacEwan, and it was there in 1893 that Mrs Rebecca Strong, one of the pioneers of nursing reform, opened the first preliminary training school in which pupils were given theoretical instruction after commencing practical training. That great tradition is still maintained.





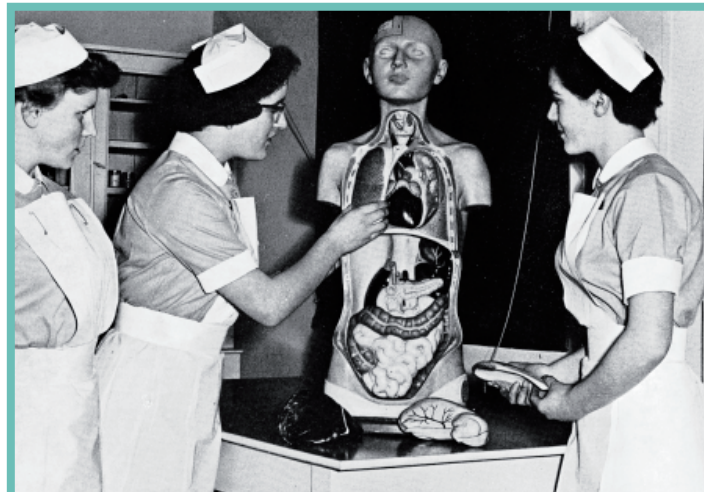
## *Lewis Hospital offers other advantages*

The commencing age for a student nurse is 17 years and 9 months, but the girl who is keen can enter Lewis Hospital at 17 years as an auxiliary nurse. In this way, she begins to earn, and can get the feel of the job nine months before the formal training begins.

In the same way, the girl who is not quite sure that she would succeed as a nurse can have nine months experience as an auxiliary, within reach of home before making up her mind.

Within one year's training in the Lewis Hospital, and two in Glasgow Royal infirmary, the student can qualify as a State Registered Nurse in the minimum period – three years. By starting in Lewis Hospital she does not add anything to the period of training and she gets the advantages both of the small hospital with individual tuition and the large teaching hospital with its rich resources.

The group training scheme provides an easy transition from home and school to the city, which would appeal to student and parents alike.



During training at Lewis Hospital student nurses are expected to be resident. Auxiliary nurses can be non-resident until training begins.

Excellent living accommodation and recreational facilities are provided in a modern nurses' home. The latter includes a television set and a tennis court.

The hospital is conveniently situated. There are churches of various denominations within walking distance, and there is a branch of the Nurses' Christian fellowship, which meets fortnightly in the hospital.

Every possible step is taken to protect the health of the student nurse. During the first week in the preliminary training school there is a routine medical examination, including an x-ray of the chest. Student nurses are advised to report immediately, if they feel unwell. If a student nurse is off duty owing to illness, the parent or guardian is notified so that they may visit her. There is generous provision for sick leave with pay, according to the length of service.

A pension scheme covers all student nurses, but contributions are refunded to those who leave the service for marriage or other reasons.







Girls entering the nursing profession should have reached a good standard of education, and be able to pass the prescribed entrance examination.

There are three preliminary training school courses every year, commencing in January, May and September. The student receives instruction in

anatomy, physiology, health and nutrition and the basic principles of nursing, and these three months are regarded as a trial period during which the suitability of the candidate can be assessed.

The nurse enters upon her further training in hospital, moving from ward to ward to gain knowledge of the



various branches of nursing necessary to meet the needs of the General Nursing Council for Scotland. Concurrently with the practical experience, theoretical instruction is given by the sister tutor in preparation for the State Examinations. There is a block system of training so that nurses have a week's tuition in the teaching department

before each State Examination. Student nurses in training at the Lewis Hospital enter for Part 1 of the Preliminary State Examination at the end of nine months and for Part 2 on completion of one year. They then proceed to Glasgow Royal Infirmary to continue their training for another two years.

## Centenary of transformational healthcare report

This year marks the centenary of a report which transformed health services in the Western Isles and established the founding principles of the National Health Service.

In 1912, the Dewar Commission was established to examine the state of health services throughout the Highlands and Islands. The Report of the Highlands and Islands Medical Service Committee or 'Dewar Report' was published, named after its chair, Sir Donald Dewar.

The report presented a vivid description of the social landscape of the time and highlighted the desperate state of medical provision to the population, particularly in the rural areas of the Highlands and Islands.

The Committee gathered information by questionnaires sent to 102 doctors and 158 other individuals and this was followed on by direct observation by a series of meetings visiting Inverness, Thurso, Kirkwall, Fair Isle and Lerwick; Lairg, Bettyhill, and Rhiconich in Sutherlandshire; Stornoway and Garrynahine in the island of Lewis; Tarbert, Harris; Lochmaddy in North Uist; Dunvegan and Portree in the Isle of Skye; and Kyle of Lochalsh, Perth and Oban. They also held meetings in



Highlands & Islands Medical Committee, 1912.  
 Chas. Orrack    Dr. Leslie MacKenzie    M. Beaton    Dr. J. L. McVail    J. Cullen Greirson  
 Andrew Lindsay    Miss Tolmie    The Marchioness of Tullibardine  
 Sir John Dewar, Bart.    J. L. Robertson Esq. L.L.D.  
 Chairman

Edinburgh and Glasgow and reviewed available published reports and papers.

The report was detailed in its recommendations, namely that an imperial grant should be provided to enable a reorganisation of the medical services under

a single organisation with patients paying a small fee for services and doctors receiving a minimum salary with additional expenses for travel. It also recommended the reorganisation of nursing services, the building of community hospitals,

improvement of the telephones and provision for an ambulance service.

Overtime these recommendations led to the formation of the Highlands and Islands Medical Service, which acted as a working blueprint for the NHS in Scotland.