

the public, that for the professional nurse to think very much about financial return in connection with professional nursing service is somehow "unprofessional."

But is it? Even the philosopher quoted above refers to a profession as "a vocation . . . by implication gainful. . . ."

## More About Rank for the ANC

HR 3761 which would have provided full military rank for members of the Army Nurse Corps, dietitians, and physical therapy aides (see April *American Journal of Nursing*, page 319) was adversely reported upon by the War Department and has been withdrawn.

The new bill, HR 4445, introduced by Mrs. Bolton on March 21 as the April *Journal* went to press, is considered superior to HR 3761 by the ANA Special Committee on Federal Legislation and a Legislative Committee of the Women's Joint Congressional Committee except that it would provide temporary instead of full military rank for members of the Army Nurse Corps, dietitians, and physical therapy aides.

It is an improvement on HR 3761 because administrative details concerning duties, retirement, and dependency allowances are written into the bill specifically and provision is made for the automatic "blanketing in" of the present personnel of the Army Nurse Corps without the necessity of individual applications.

The ANA Special Committee on Federal Legislation, reporting favorably on HR 4445, with the exception noted, was strongly supported in its stand by a Legislative Committee of the Women's Joint Congressional Committee which recommended that each organization represented on the Committee take the following action:

That state associations write to members of the House and Senate Military Affairs Committees stating that they are in favor of HR 4445, with the exception of its provision for temporary rank instead of permanent rank, and that each state association request its congressmen to give favorable consideration to permanent rank for the Army Nurse Corps when the bill comes up for consideration.

The organizations represented at the meeting of the Legislative Committee of the Women's Joint Congressional Committee included the following: American Association of University Women, American Dietetic Association, Ameri-

can Physiotherapy Association, National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.

Within thirty-six hours after the ANA Special Committee on Federal Legislation had filed its report at ANA Headquarters on April 12, copies of HR 4445 and the recommendations of the Committee and of the Legislative Committee of the Women's Joint Congressional Committee were in the mails on their way to each state nurses association. If each state has effective machinery for getting word through to its members, perhaps word that the bill has passed both Houses of Congress may reach the reader before this statement does.

## Salaries

THE American Nurses' Association study of the salaries of 26,520 general staff nurses, published last year, was based on data collected in the fall of 1942. It shows that, at that time, the median annual salary of general staff nurses, in addition to full maintenance, was \$981; the median in addition to partial maintenance was \$1,141; and, when no maintenance was provided, the median annual cash salary was "over \$1,200."

The *Journal's* "want ads" provide an interesting clue to present salary scales. Here is what we found:

In April 1943, the *Journal* carried seventeen "want ads"; in April 1944, fifty-five. Advertisements for general staff nurses predominated in both issues. Most hospitals advertised for more than one nurse. Salaries for supervisors, administrators, and teachers were mostly listed as "open." What follows refers to salaries for general staff nurses. In April 1943, seven of the eight hospitals which offered full maintenance offered \$90 or more a month, plus full maintenance. In April 1944, eight of the fifteen hospitals which provided full maintenance offered \$110 or more a month in addition. Two of these were tuberculosis hospitals. Nine hospitals, in April 1944, offered cash salaries of from \$150 to \$170 a month (no maintenance); all but one of these was in the far West; the other in the South.

The group offering the highest salaries with full maintenance in addition, in the April 1944 *Journal*, were six in the East North Central area (Ohio, Michigan, Illinois). These salaries ranged from \$105 to \$135 plus full maintenance. The two tuberculosis hospitals mentioned above are in this group.