

### THE DAY OF NATIONAL INTERCESSION.

Sunday, January 3rd, was observed throughout England and Wales as a Day of Intercession, on behalf of the nations involved in the War, in conformity with the suggestion of His Majesty the King. The churches and chapels were crowded with earnest congregations, and the offertories made should add a substantial sum to that already entrusted to the Joint Committee of the British Red Cross Society, and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem for the care of the sick and wounded. A special form of prayer authorized by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York was used throughout the English Church, including a prayer for guidance for our own nation and our Allies, for the soldiers and sailors, for the anxious and bereaved, a commendation to the mercy of God of those who have fallen, and a prayer for peace.

A letter from Queen Alexandra, the President of the British Red Cross Society, was read in many of the churches. There are in the United Kingdom and France some 23,000 hospital beds under the auspices of the Society, 764 nurses, and 7,932 orderlies are working for it, 900 motor ambulances and cars are provided for conveying the wounded, 25 motor lorries for carrying Red Cross Medical Stores, 16 motor soup kitchens will serve the wounded with hot and suitable beverages at field hospitals, 15,259 cases of Red Cross Stores have been despatched, and 737,014 garments have been supplied to wounded soldiers. The maintenance of the work weekly costs £10,000.

At Westminster Cathedral a votive mass was said and there were special services in the Russan Church, Welbeck Street, W., and in the Jewish Synagogues. The day was also observed in France and Belgium.

### DISPENSING AS AN ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATION FOR NURSES.

For some years now an increasing number of nurses have trained in dispensing and added that diploma to the list of their acquirements. Their previous training in nursing especially fits them to study this comparatively new branch; and, indeed, many regard it as a logical complement to nursing, considering how much nurses have to do with the administration of medicines.

The advantages of this diploma to those who can spare the time and afford the necessary expense are proved by practical experience.

Nurses possessing the dispenser's qualification are appreciated by medical practitioners, who have confidence in their capacity. The work is not so "trying" as nursing alone, and there is more leisure in addition to the financial benefit. Many nurses have taken up dispensing after years of hard nursing work, as a relief; and, in many cases, when advised to do so, on the advice of medical men to discontinue a career of nursing alone. A good feature also is that there is no disadvantage

to a dispenser in being of middle-age. Nurses over forty have been successful in gaining the diploma as dispensers, and have found exactly what they wanted.

At the present time there is only one—the qualifying—examination to be passed, which, as examinations go, is not too difficult. It comprises practical dispensing and pharmacy, elementary materia medica and chemistry. The regulations require a practical training of only six months; and the total expense averages about £25, or with board and lodging for six months, about £50. From this it will be gathered that this attainment is quite possible for a number of nurses, and the avenues of usefulness in this direction are always widening.

For nearly twenty years the Westminster College for Lady Dispensers, 112, St. George's Road, Southwark, S.E. (only address), has been engaged very successfully in training ladies, from the age of 18 upwards. The students are taught the practical work of dispensing and pharmacy. We are informed by the Secretary, Mr. J. E. Walden, that all places are filled for the present course, and more nurses and other lady students are studying than at any previous period in the history of the college. In addition a considerable number are receiving preparatory instruction previous to commencing attendance in February, May and August of this year, for the practical training. We commend this College to the attention and support of our readers.

### THE AMBULANCE CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE.

As this is the first war in which field motor-ambulances have been extensively used, it was inevitable that many defects should be found in existing types. At the instance of Mr. Henry S. Wellcome, the founder of the Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research, a Commission has been formed to consider the question of ambulance construction which, first and foremost, will act as a judging committee for the award of prizes of the value of £2,000 provided by the Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research. These prizes are offered for the best designs of an ambulance body which shall fit a standard pattern motor-chassis for field motor-ambulances. The last day for the receipt of competing designs is June 30th, 1915. It is hoped that the competition will bring in a number of ingenious designs from which the ideal field ambulance-body will be evolved.

The first prize is £1,000, the second £500, and the third £300. All details of conditions may be obtained from the Secretary, the Ambulance Construction Commission, 10, Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square, London, W. It is open to citizens of all nations.

The offer is on the liberal scale, inspired by the practical and patriotic motives which we are accustomed to associate with the firm of Burroughs Wellcome & Co.

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