

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, held at the India Office (working in conjunction with Toc H), Sir William Peel, chairman of the executive committee, said Toc H had enabled them to expand their activities with considerable success. Through Toc H they had obtained the services of a dozen young lay workers who had given up their vocations at home and gone abroad on a bare subsistence allowance to devote their lives to lepers in the Empire. They had a waiting list of 50 further volunteers, but could not, with present resources, afford to send out more.

It was estimated that there were at least 2,000,000 lepers in the British Empire, and as yet little had been achieved in checking or materially diminishing the incidence of that terrible scourge. It was essential that more should be done in the way of preventive work. It was especially important to consider the children.

Major-General Sir Cuthbert Sprawson said that in the affected countries it was essential not only to train, as the Association was doing, native social workers, some of them perhaps recovered patients, but also to interest the whole mass of the people, and to influence them in the plans of the campaign. Leprosy, like tuberculosis, was a social disease and required social workers to fight it.

From the *Nursing Journal of India* we note that an interesting debate took place recently amongst the nurses of the Presidency General Hospital, Calcutta. The debate was on the question: "Should a Woman Continue her Profession after Marriage?" The point was forcibly put by both sides, and the vote passed was in favour of the married woman giving up professional duties.

In this connection we wonder why so many nurses who marry not only give up work but give up their professional relations in every sense, often resign from their professional associations and so on. A nurse who makes what is known as "a good marriage" should keep in close touch with her professional colleagues. With time and sometimes money to spare, she can do much to promote the welfare of her profession and its members.

#### WELCOME TO ENGLAND

Old friends will wish to unite with us in offering all our sympathy to Lavinia L. Dock in the loss of her sister who she writes "entered into rest" last month, who paralysed for many years, has absorbed the whole time and devotion of her sisters. A loss—yes—but the release of a loved one from suffering brings with it thankfulness and peace.

Of late years the meetings of the International Council of Nurses have lost immeasurably from the absence of the splendid, fearless, brilliant women who founded it, overcame opposition and prejudice, and made it the most uplifting and inspiring influence in the nursing world. Of these leaders the most valiant was Lavinia Dock. We feel sure after years of selfless devotion in the home, what is now needed is a visit to England, where her old friends would give her the warmest of welcomes, and themselves receive solace from her rare and lovely sense of honour.

## QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE.

### NEW MATRON-IN-CHIEF.

Miss Catherine Murray Roy, R.R.C., who has become Matron-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, joined the service as a staff nurse in 1909.

Miss Roy served in France and was mentioned in dispatches and awarded the French Medal for Epidemics, the Royal Red Cross, and the Military Medal. She has been Principal Matron at the War Office since 1934.

The retiring Matron-in-Chief, Miss Daisy Maud Martin, R.R.C., S.R.N.; was specially advanced for outstanding service, and became head of the service four years ago. She joined in 1913.

Miss Martin took a warm interest in the organisation of the International Congress of Nurses, held in London last July, and offered delightful hospitality with the aid of many generous colleagues.

## PRINCESS MARY'S ROYAL AIR FORCE NURSING SERVICE.

### NURSING SERVICE ENGAGEMENTS.

From April 1st, 1938, all new entrants to the Princess Mary's R.A.F. Nursing Service will be appointed on six months' probation, and under the condition governing permanent appointments laid down in Air Publication 1075, instead of on a contract basis as heretofore. All members at present serving under contract will be considered for transfer to the permanent service. Members who do not wish to accept a permanent appointment will be allowed to complete their present term of contract.

## GERMAN NURSES AND THE RECENT EVENTS IN AUSTRIA.

The German and Austrian Nurses seem to have been adding their voices to the pæans of jubilation, which have been ringing through Germany and Austria in honour of the Fuehrer's great coup, in no uncertain manner. According to the Nurse's periodical, *Die Deutsche Schwester* of April 15th, the following message was received by them from the Association of the Trained Nurses of Austria, headquarters Vienna:—

"We salute all Nursing Sisters rapturously in these glorious days of Austria's Resurrection."

The German Nurses replied with an equally inspired message, beginning:—

"From our hearts we bid the Austrian Nursing Sisters, with whom many of us worked side by side during the Great War, welcome in our glorious Greater Germany."

The limit of enthusiasm is, however, surely reached in a little poem by Deaconess Minna Borrmann, "Thanksgiving," the last verse of which runs somewhat as follows in a free translation:—

"Call you me not happy so, and rich?

Limitlessly free?

May I me now to God and Fuehrer pledge,

In like Loyalty?

To him, from German hearts e'er renewed,

Thousandfold gratitude." R. F.

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