

for the time being, and nurses displaced. A large number of nurses, nearly 80 per cent., engaged on A.R.P. work, members of the Port of London Authority Auxiliary Nursing Service attached to the river emergency service, have been summarily dismissed, and both trained and semi-trained find themselves in difficulties. These women have been engaged since the outbreak of war on the most dangerous of all women's A.R.P. work. It has been necessary for them to travel up and down the river in all weathers in all sorts of craft. On the reception of an air raid warning all these craft have had to leave the quayside and be ready for any emergency.

It is announced officially that Nurses in prisons and Borstal institutions are to receive pay increases of £45 a year.

Principal sisters get an increase from £210 to £240, and matrons-in-chief are advanced from £400 to £450.

The organisation of the Prison Nursing Service has been one of the most beneficent movements of modern times, and as women of character and intuition are required to promote its usefulness to the full, it is just that they should be adequately paid.

We learn from the *Bulletin* of the League of Red Cross Societies, which has now headquarters at Geneva, that :

"The League's interest in nursing problems has not relaxed in recent months. The London Courses run by the Florence Nightingale International Foundation having been suspended, the Secretariat is endeavouring to find in the United States the facilities hitherto available in Europe for the national Societies. Through agreements with the American Red Cross it may be possible, by means of scholarships awarded by the League, to arrange for the post-graduate training of Red Cross nurses from different countries in certain specialised schools in the United States. Further, the Secretariat has drawn up a summary of the main essentials for the efficient organisation of a school of nursing and has sent it, in Spanish, to the Red Cross Societies of Latin America."

When the violent explosions took place at Waltham Abbey we at once thought of the patients and staff at the Isolation Hospital, in Honey Lane, and were relieved to learn from its popular Matron, Miss Tilbey, that little damage had been done, and no one injured, which was providential, as for miles around structures had been damaged.

#### QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S ROYAL NAVAL NURSING SERVICE.

Miss Annabella Ralph, A.R.R.C., Matron, has been appointed Matron-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, on the retirement of Miss B. M. Martin, R.R.C., to date March 10th, 1940.

Miss Ralph was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen, and was placed on the Register of Nurses for Scotland in 1923. She has been in the Royal Naval Nursing Service for several years, and is to be congratulated upon promotion to the senior official position in this senior Royal Service.

We shall all miss Miss B. M. Martin, the present Matron-in-Chief, who has come into touch with her colleagues in the kindest manner.

## THE CIVIL NURSING RESERVE ADVISORY COUNCIL.

### REORGANISATION OF CIVIL NURSING RESERVE COMMITTEE.

That changes in the organisation of the Civil Nursing Reserve are announced will be welcomed by all those who have the welfare of the sick and wounded in war at heart. The organisation of the late Committee was doomed to failure from its inception, and had we been actively at war, as anticipated six months ago, there is little doubt the results so far as the whole community is concerned would have been disastrously insufficient.

Changes are now announced in a circular which Mr. Walter Elliot, the Minister of Health, has issued to County and County Borough Councils.

The Minister of Health has decided to incorporate the headquarters organisation of the Reserve in his Department, and to replace the Central Emergency Committee by an Advisory Council under the Chairmanship of Miss Florence Horsbrugh, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry. The local emergency organisations will remain unchanged, but the Minister suggests certain steps for maintaining the efficiency of the Reserve during the period when most of its members are still standing by. For this purpose he recommends that some one person in each county or county borough, usually a member of the local emergency committee, should be asked to act as organiser.

It is also announced that a Regional Nursing Officer is being appointed for each of the 11 civil defence regions into which England and Wales are divided. Each officer will have had administrative experience in addition to her qualifications as a State Registered Nurse, and her duty will be to keep in touch with medical officers of health and local emergency committees, and generally to supervise the emergency nursing services of the region. Eight appointments have so far been made, and five of the new nursing officers have already been assigned to their regions. At the same time the Ministry of Health has issued an explanatory leaflet for members and intending members of the Reserve, setting out the conditions of enrolment and employment.

As we have not failed, as the Press as a whole has done, to criticise the intolerable inefficiency of the Civil Nursing Reserve Committee in the past, we welcome the realisation at last by the Minister of Health, who appointed it, that Registered Nurses must be empowered to organise and control their own professional work, if it is to be of any value to the community, and we shall watch the result of the new experiment with interest.

#### INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE.

We have enquired from Miss Horsbrugh's office at the Ministry of Health concerning certain details but without much success.

We gather there is to be no professional Matron-in-Chief at Headquarters. That the eleven Regional Nursing Officers are being appointed by the Ministry, these desirable posts not having been advertised.

The salaries they are to receive have not yet been made public.

When the whole number of appointments have been made the names will be announced.

Thus those Registered Nurses who are heavily taxed to pay the salaries of these new officers will learn with satisfaction that representatives of various bodies representing the Nursing Profession have been invited to nominate representatives to be members of the New Advisory Council. We congratulate the Minister of Health on this decision; it is a step in the right direction.

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