

bounded by what was to be got out of, but what one could put into the profession. It must also be realised that the degree of respect that the calling had been able to engender in the public mind has been due to the unselfish service rendered, not only by those whose names had come into prominence, but also by those unsung heroines who had carried on without glamour or substantial material reward, and had found enduring satisfaction in the quiet faithful day to day discharge of their duty.

(4) *Professional Standards*.—These must be preserved intact. It would be the most fatal and suicidal policy to permit any tampering with or lowering of the professional standards that had been attained, particularly since State Registration of nurses was achieved after years of agitation, hard work and propaganda. Let nurses in Australia, at any rate, stand against any panic nursing legislation, or rather, legislation to regularise and give official recognition to unqualified nursing practitioners, thus setting up a second-grade nurse. If these women lacked the ability, energy or suitability to become properly qualified registered nurses they must turn their activities into some other channels where they would be less dangerous than in nursing, which still called for the highest degree of skill and character in those who practised it.

(5) *Unity and Discipline*.—Miss Bell had spoken of the challenge that must be met and ended on the same note. It called for the utmost unity and discipline, particularly self-discipline, within the ranks. Violent upheavals like wars always brought about a slackening of conventions, and nursing, unfortunately, had not proved itself exempt although it had been one of the traditions that nurses should prove themselves to be among "the strong and skilled," able and anxious to guide and help their weaker sisters—and brethren.

OBITUARY.

We announce with deep regret the loss of the following members of the Military Nursing Services:—

Miss Hilda Constance Marie Bishop, S.R.N., S.C.M. Sister, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.—Died in India January 18th, 1944. She has been serving in India since July, 1941.

Mrs. Margaret Ann Alton (née Cooper), S.R.N., S.C.M.—Sister, T.A.N.S.—Died at Middlesbrough after a brief illness on February 11th, 1944. She retired from nursing on her marriage in 1942, but again offered her services and was embodied with the T.A.N.S. in August, 1943.

Miss Audrey Margaret Craig Balfour, S.R.N. Sister, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.—Died at Gibraltar, February 11th, 1944. She was appointed to Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. in March, 1940, and shortly afterwards proceeded to Malta, where she served throughout the siege, and received an injury from an enemy shell. She was later posted to the Middle East and was on her way back to U.K. at the time of her death.

Miss Maud Louisa Johnson, S.R.N. Sister, T.A.N.S.—presumed killed in action at sea on July 13th, 1943. She was appointed to Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. in September, 1941, and at the time of her death was serving on a hospital carrier in the Mediterranean.

Miss Gladys Evelyn Francis Miles, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.—Died at Shenley, February 23rd, 1944. She joined Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. in February, 1942.

Miss Ethel Carter, S.R.N. Sister, T.A.N.S.—She was mobilised for military service with the T.A.N.S. in January, 1941.

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRON.

Newstead Sanatorium, Nottingham.—Miss Hilda I. Richards, S.R.N., S.C.M., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital; at the David Lewis Northern Hospital, Liverpool; and at the City of London Maternity Hospital. Miss Richards has been Ward Sister at the David Lewis Northern Hospital, Liverpool; Night Sister, Home and Stores Sister, and Assistant Matron at the City Sanatorium, Birmingham. She also took the Housekeeping Course of the Leicester Royal Infirmary; and holds Honours of the Tuberculosis Association.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

West Glamorgan County Hospital, Neath.—Miss Gwladys E. Lewis, S.R.N., has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, Mon., and has been Sister at St. Olave's Hospital, London, and Night Sister at Llandough Hospital.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

WE MUST RESTORE ORDER.

We have to thank many friends for kind letters in reference to the disaster which has befallen the British College of Nurses, Ltd., from enemy action, and offering personal and material help. The fact remains that we must face the matter with spirit, and unite in helping to reconstruct the whole establishment, for which many months will be required. But we all know that good will and organisation can, and must, restore order and efficiency, and the staff have, from the first shock, stood up to it with truly British spirit. The more difficult the task, the more they are determined to win through—so that's that.

A NOTE FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

Christmas greetings keep being delivered from various parts of the world. Better late than never, as we love to know we are kept in mind in Dominions far away. Miss S. M. Marwick, General President, and members of the South African Trained Nurses' Association, wrote as follows, in December:—

"Our Nursing Bill has passed its First Reading, and we are working hard, and have hope that it will pass its Second and Third Reading in the Union Government House of Assembly early in 1944.

"We are very short of Trained and Student Nurses and Midwives in South Africa."

[So long as war lasts, it is inevitable that there should be a shortage of nurses in all ranks. Let us hope that the trained skill of Registered Nurses is available for the sick and wounded, who are fighting and dying for us. After the termination of war, we hope, with encouragement as to its standards of efficiency, that there will be an ample supply of recruits.—Ed.]

THE RIGHT SPIRIT.

Miss Mary Jacobs, of Alma College, St. Thomas's, a loyal member of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., in Canada, having sent a generous donation in support of its work, writes:—

"I feel that the cause for which you are so valiantly striving should receive the loyal support of every nurse, not only in the United Kingdom, but in all the British Commonwealth of Nations, we all owe you more than can ever be repaid. No one has ever been as courageous. We should all give to this wonderful work our loyalty and support to the best of our ability.

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