

NURSING ECHOES.

His Majesty the King has recently presented the Royal Red Cross First Class to Matrons Q.A.I.M.N.S., awarded some two years ago, owing to the fact that recipients have only recently returned from foreign service. Amongst these ladies was Matron Elizabeth D. A. McHardy, whose portrait we present—as she appeared in the new khaki uniform which emphasises the military rank of members of Q.A.I.M.N.S., which is very impressive and becoming.

Matron McHardy has 18½ years military nursing service to her credit, at home and abroad, the Near East, Malta, Egypt, Khartum, Gibraltar, and we can imagine no more honourable service a woman can render her country, who is not helping to build National security as the mother of a family. His Majesty welcomed at Buckingham Palace, in the kindest manner, the recipients of the R.R.C.

It will be agreed from the portrait of Matron McHardy, R.R.C., that the new khaki nursing uniform is very becoming, and adds to the military appearance of the nursing service.

At the Annual General Meeting of the United Nursing Services' Club, Ltd., held recently, it was announced that Dame Katharine Jones, D.B.E., R.R.C., late Matron-in-Chief of the Q.A.I.M.N.S., had consented to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors caused by the death of the late Miss A. M. Bushby, S.R.N.

We owe Miss Nightingale a debt for having been so punctilious a correspondent, and leaving so many interesting letters.

From the *Paisley Daily Express* we quote the following interesting statement:—

A historical document in Florence Nightingale's own handwriting was inspected with keen interest by the

company at Ferguslie Mills Ambulance Class social in Gibson's tea-rooms last night.

Mr. Ian P. Coats, the chairman, observed that it was always interesting to look back as well as to look forward. He had with him that night a letter from a lady who, he considered, was the real ancestor of all nurses and V.A.D.s as they knew them to-day. The letter came to light through one of the numerous paper salvage drives at the mills. It was addressed to the directors of Ferguslie Thread Works and is in the following terms:—

Barrack Hospital
Scutari, Crimea.
3rd March, 1856.

GENTLEMEN, I beg to say that the case of thread you have been so kind as to send for the use of the army has been distributed in the Crimea and elsewhere, and that it has been one of the most useful contributions we have received. I beg to offer you our best thanks for your kind consideration in sending it. I beg also to thank you for your kind offer to send a further supply of thread which, through our present uncertainty on account of the expectation of peace, prevents my accepting. I remain, Gentlemen, Your obliged and obedient servant,

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

"The Nightingale Fellowship," which unites the nurses of St. Thomas's Hospital in affiliation with our National Council of Nurses, is, indeed, fortunate in the Editor of its official organ, the *Nightingale Fellowship Journal*, and the recent issue contains a life-like portrait of the late Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, D.B.E., R.R.C., by Margaret Lindsay Williams, which has been presented to the Nightingale School by Lady Riddell.

The *Journal* also contains a series of "Letters of Farewell to Our Foundress," including one from Queen Mary and the President of the International Council of Nurses, Dean Effie R. J. Taylor, R.N. We realise the far-reaching influence of our International organisation,



MATRON ELIZABETH D. A. McHARDY,
R.R.C., Q.A.I.M.N.S.

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