

The British Red Cross Society.

The B.R.C.S. has just issued its Report for the year 1954, and we here present items which we consider to be of interest to our readers.

Nursing.

THE TRAINED NURSES' Department at national headquarters has continued to supply trained nursing staff to the auxiliary hospitals and convalescent homes conducted by the Joint Committee of the Order and the Society. The Matron-in-Chief visited these establishments during the year.

A very interesting and successful conference was held at Barnett Hill Training Centre in September, 1954, at which 23 County Nursing Superintendents were present. It was agreed that a conference should be held for Divisional and Detachment Nursing Superintendents in the Spring of 1955.

The Department again supplied a trained nurse for duty in Kent during the hop-picking season in September and October. The Matron-in-Chief visited the County of London Branch dispensaries in the Hunton and Tudley areas of Kent.

Nursing Scholarships.

National Florence Nightingale Memorial Scholarships, 1954-5. The Society awarded two scholarships valued at £350 each to a British nurse to study outside the United Kingdom and one to a Colonial nurse to study in this country. No scholarship was awarded to a foreign nurse in the 1954-55 session as an additional scholarship was awarded to a nurse from Pakistan in 1953-54. The scholarships were awarded to: Miss A. H. K. Bird, Sister-Tutor, Preliminary Training School, General Infirmary, Leeds, to assist her in taking a course of six months' observation of nurse training and teaching in Canada and the U.S.A.; Miss M. B. Whittow, Ward Sister, Women's Medical Ward, University College Hospital, London, to assist her to take a six months' course of observation of ward teaching and administration in the U.S.A.; Miss Bronte Agatha Welsh, St. Kitts, British West Indies, to enable her to take a District Nursing course in this country.

Last Year's Foreign Scholars. Miss A. M. E. Larsen, Denmark, returned home in August, 1954, after a very successful course in psychiatric nursing in this country. Mrs. Wazir Begum, Pakistan, returned at the end of July, 1954, to Pakistan on the completion of a nursing administration course. Since her return we have been informed that she was awarded the Coronation Medal of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Last Year's Colonial Scholar. Miss E. de Mello, Nairobi, Kenya, returned home in August, 1954, after successfully passing her senior public health course at the Royal College of Nursing.

State Registered Nurses Serving Overseas.

Malaya. Fourteen nurses are at present serving with the British Red Cross Society in Malaya and continue to do splendid work in the resettlement villages. Miss Violet Morse was awarded the Negri Sembilan Meritorious Service Medal by His Highness the Yang di-Pertnan Besar in recognition of her services to the State of Negri Sembilan. Another nurse, Miss Morfydd Young, volunteered to live with an aboriginal tribe, the Che Wong, for two months in the jungle in order to restore the health standards of the tribe, which was in danger of extinction from disease and malnutrition. Several of the nurses have had exciting experiences, notably Mrs. Hart who undertook a hazardous journey to save the life of a Chinese woman, another nurse, Miss Burgess, was in a village which was raided one night.

Many such incidents, mentioned quite casually in reports,

indicate how exacting and arduous is the work in Malaya, although undertaken most willingly and cheerfully by all concerned.

Korea. Miss Ella Jorden, M.B.E., continues her excellent work in Korea with Miss Joan Deadman, S.R.N., and two Welfare Officers, Miss C. Shaw and Miss M. Sharp, who have now joined the team. Their work is described elsewhere in this report. There is no doubt that Miss Jorden's splendid leadership has been an important factor in the success of this undertaking.

Kenya. Two teams flew to Kenya in April to work in the forest villages among the resettled women and children of the Kikuyu tribe. Miss Margaret Robinson, S.R.N., and Miss Joan Priest, Welfare Officer, work together at Nyeri. Miss Evelyn Bennett worked principally among the children in a police camp and, later, in Nairobi. Another welfare officer, Mrs. Henley Colgate, is at Fort Hall. These teams were reinforced in September by Miss Helen Cholmeley, S.R.N., and in November by Miss Eva Lancaster, S.R.N., and Miss Marjorie Houghton, S.R.N. Reports indicate that all the teams are doing outstanding work under difficult circumstances. Even in so short a time they have succeeded in gaining the confidence of many of the villagers and being of real service to them.

British North Borneo. Miss E. Eggleston, S.R.N., who took up the duties of Red Cross Organiser and Sister Tutor in the Government Hospital at Brunei in October, 1953, has had her contract extended for a further year from October, 1954. In one village a road has been named "Eggleston Road," a tribute which speaks for itself.

British Honduras. Miss S. Stromwall, S.R.N., has continued her valuable work in the colony at the request of the British Red Cross Branch, which asked for her tour to be extended.

Northern Nigeria. Miss H. Hanckel, S.R.N., who commenced a second tour of fifteen months in February, 1954, has extended this for an additional month in order to visit a remote part of the province.

The Gambia. Miss O. L. Colquhoun, S.R.N., has undertaken a special health education tour of 15 months and left England on December 17th.

Miss Janet Grant, S.R.N., left for the Gold Coast on November 8th for a further six months' extension of her work in this area.

Turkey. Miss Rosamund Hone, S.R.N., who was appointed Director of the Red Crescent School of Nursing in Istanbul, has now returned home.

Joint Committee Training Scheme.

The Joint Committee Training Scheme again offered a number of scholarships to State Registered Nurses wishing to take specified post-registration courses. Out of a total of 91 applicants 39 were selected for interview, to 20 of whom the following scholarships were awarded:—

Hospital Nursing Administration	..	..	14
Public Health Nursing Administration	..	..	2
Health Visitor Tutor	..	..	2
District Nurse Tutor	..	..	1
Midwife Teacher (full-time)	..	..	1
			—
			20
			—

Auxiliary Nursing.

Report from Branches in all parts of the country reflect the important role which the Society's Detachments continue to play in co-operation with the National Health Service in the sphere of auxiliary nursing, both in hospitals and in the home. In most Branches members undertake regular nursing

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)