

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

On Tuesday evening, July 4th, the third annual dinner of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service was held at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W., the Viscountess Downe presiding.

There was a very large attendance of members, many coming from long distances, thereby showing the deep interest and pleasure taken in these re-unions.

The guests were received by Miss Browne, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, Miss Monk, and Miss Cave, of the Nursing Board. One had only to look round at the many happy faces and listen to the ceaseless hum of voices to realise that many old friends had met and were thoroughly enjoying themselves.

At the close of dinner, Viscountess Downe, rising to propose the toast of their Majesties the King and Queen, said she had not come to make a speech, but would like to say what immense pleasure it gave her to be present. Just as she left home to come to the dinner, she had received a telegram which Her Gracious Majesty Queen Alexandra, with her usual thoughtfulness and interest in the Service, had sent.

The telegram, which was passed round for each member to see and read, ran as follows:—"Will you give the nurses who dine with you to-night my best wishes, and thank them for all they have done in furtherance of a scheme which is so near to my heart.—Alexandra."

A telegram of thanks, expressing deep appreciation of Her Majesty's kindness, was sent in reply.

Lady Downe then proposed the toast which she felt sure all present would like to hear—viz., that of 'Their Most Gracious Majesties the King and Queen.' This was drunk with great applause, the band playing the National Anthem.

Continuing, Lady Downe said that she very much regretted that at the next meeting Miss Browne, she feared, would no longer be present as Matron-in-Chief, but she knew, as all must know, what an interest Miss Browne had always taken in the Queen's Nursing Service, and she felt confident that that Service might always count on her as a friend. She hoped, personally, that she had made a friend of Miss Browne for life.

With a few very kind and helpful words to cheer each one on their way through the battle of life, and to give them courage to persevere and endure, Lady Downe brought her remarks to a close.

Miss Browne, in responding, expressed her gratification at the success of the dinner, and thanked Lady Downe for all the kind sentiments she had expressed. Continuing, Miss Browne said she would like to read a letter she had received from Countess Roberts, who much regretted her inability to be present. "Will you kindly express to the ladies of Q.A.I.M.N.S. my deep regret and disappointment at my inability to be present at the dinner this evening. I had looked forward with great pleasure to meeting some of my old friends in the Service, and to making the acquaintance of many whom I had a share in admitting to the Military Branch of their most honourable profession. Please say to all present that I wish them a very pleasant evening, and that I hope to meet them all next year in health, peace, and happiness."

A vote of thanks to Lady Roberts was proposed and conveyed to her by telegram.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



The Council of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses have passed a resolution recording their deep appreciation of the long and devoted services to the Institute of Miss Peter, who recently resigned the position of General Superintendent.

We are glad to learn that a Fund has been started with the object of presenting a testimonial to Miss Peter from past and present Queen's Nurses. The Hon. Treasurer is Miss Mantell, 54, Knatchbull Road, Camberwell, S.E., to whom contributions should be sent before September 1st.

Miss Peter and Miss Wyatt, Superintendent of Jubilee Nurses at Ryde, recently attended a meeting of the Sandown and Lake District Nursing Society, held at Lake, with the object of explaining the conditions of affiliation to the Jubilee Institute. It was decided to engage a district nurse in October, and a vote of thanks was passed to the speakers.

Mr. F. W. Saunderson, writing in a contemporary on the subject of hospitals, says:—No article on the hospitals could possibly be complete which did not make mention of the medical student and the nurse. It is here, in the hospitals, that the callow youth fresh from school and the eager girl just out of her teens are brought face to face with the horrors and the sufferings among which their life-work is to be done. It is always a fascinating study to regard from the outside the means and the conditions under which a man is trained and perfected. You see the middle-aged doctor, keen-eyed, and with nerves of iron, standing, knife in hand, just about to perform a delicate operation. A nurse is in attendance. She moves silently, knowing her every duty, and her gentle face is so set as to express no emotion whatever. This doctor is the same man whose first sight of an operation was a hideous nightmare seen through a blinding mist. This nurse is the same woman who at one time dared not look upon blood. In between the "then" and the "now" lie the years of training in the hospital.

Is it possible that anyone who realises the responsibilities which fall to the share of a Superintendent Nurse should grudge her three weeks' holiday in the year? It would seem so, for the applica-

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