

### QUEEN'S HOSPITAL NURSES' LEAGUE MAGAZINE.

The latest addition to League magazines, and a very charming one, is that of the Queen's Hospital Nurses' League, Birmingham, of which Miss Maude Buckingham is President, which has just made its appearance in a cover of a most attractive shade of blue, with its name, surmounted with the Members' Badge, printed in black.

The Editor is greatly to be congratulated, both on the contents of the magazine and the manner in which they are presented, while the printing merits a word to itself, for it is of special excellence.

#### LETTERS OF INTEREST.

Quite a number of members seem possessed of considerable literary ability, to which is added in some instances the saving grace of humour.

Mrs. M. Stead writes from the Hospital, Angledool, New South Wales:—

It is a bit creepy living so far in the back blocks, and amongst so many Chinese and Blacks, but they are so very grateful for all I do for them that now I feel I quite like attending them . . . . I am enclosing a few chips from one of the largest opal fields in the world, Lightning Ridge, near here. If you wet them, it shows up the colour like polishing does.

Here is another letter from the Matron's postbag:—

Dear Madam,—We have here a young woman standing in our city on the market place dressed as a nurse who is taking out teeth and selling medicine. She makes a bold statement from a carriage that she is a qualified nurse from the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham. We are very anxious to know if this is true because her form of speech does not at all correspond with a trained nurse. If this is not true we shall do our best to stop her.

From the British Serbian Relief Hospital, Skopje, Miss G. Smith sends a brief postcard:

We are working very hard under trying conditions. We are up to our knees in snow! The country is very lovely. I have charge of the theatre. Getting very good work. I have no idea how the outer world is getting on.

From the 1st Southern General Hospital, Bournbrook, a member writes her Impressions of Life in a Military Hospital, from which our space only allows brief extracts:—

"Many funny tales could be told of our first experiences with the orderlies. Sister Caley was doing her best one day to show an orderly how to sweep the ward, and suggested to him it would be wise to move the chairs and lockers. He looked up and said, 'A-r-e you d-o-ing this j-o-b, or am-

I?' He had a most unfortunate impediment, which made matters worse.

"According to a leading Birmingham paper, 'We have the pick of the Midland nursing profession up here' (please don't be annoyed you people who are left behind; the papers make mistakes sometimes).

"Of course, Lindsay was with Major Kauffmann for she knew just the angle of his arm for the stethoscope and that it was fatal for a patient (even if a mere Tommy) to turn over a paper whilst he was percussing a chest. . . . Arrow-smith was given the enteric ward, and was very upset for weeks when no patients arrived; in fact I know positively she very much wanted to poison the water.

"Never will any of us forget the arrival of our first patients direct from France. The medical officers were on the spot to time, and everyone did whatever first came to hand. It was very amusing to see a very well-known surgeon giving the men hot milk out of an enamel pail. Another well-known surgical major was heard to remark that he found the wards so far apart he would have to have a horse. . . . Low be it spoken, but one Sister said she saw a very well-known medical major on the corridor with his grey flannel trousers on, and his khaki coat and cap. This has not passed the Censor. We have not heard of his being confined to barracks, as we are sure he would be if the colonel had seen him.

"Two hundred Belgians arrived one night at 11 p.m. Some very amusing and exciting things happened. . . . One soldier remarked to a Sister, 'You are as soft as a sheep,' meaning we presume, she was as gentle as a lamb. One left a postcard, to be posted when the war is over, on which he wrote telling his people he was 'alive up to that date, and in hospital with the good English Sisters.'

"We hear a good deal of the red tape of the army, and rightly so. The diet sheet is a work of art, and the number of times one signs one's name is amusing. It has been whispered that many Sisters for that reason contemplate changing their names at the end of the war!"

The Queen's Hospital Nurses' League is affiliated to the National Council of Trained Nurses, and thus takes its stand with the members of the Council in promoting mutual understanding and unity between trained nurses in the United Kingdom, and in maintaining cordial professional relations through the International Council of Nurses. THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which is the official organ of both National and International Councils, and which stands for skilled nursing for the sick of all classes, efficient standards of nursing education, State Registration of Nurses, and just economic conditions for nurses, keeps the nursing profession in touch week by week with all these things, and we hope every League member will take and read it.

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