

It is not surprising that some indignation has been aroused by the manner in which the British Red Cross Society proceeded to distribute the 520 tickets for seats for the Cavell Memorial Service at St. Paul's on Friday last. The distribution committee, whoever they were, apparently knew nothing of the Nurses' Organizations apart from hospitals and committees which employ nurses. Thus we learn that one hospital was allotted 45 tickets, and members of V.A.D.'s a certain number, whilst the representative of the National Council of Trained Nurses was curtly refused any tickets at all until a letter from the President pointed out the anomaly of the arrangements. Not one ticket was allotted to the Superintendent or School Nurses of the London County Council, the only public social service of nurses in the Metropolis; and ladies like Miss Rosalind Paget, Miss Dorothy Snell, Matron of the Queen of Italy's School of Nursing in Rome, were refused tickets. The truth is that the British Red Cross Society knows nothing of trained nursing, or of nursing organizations, and is the very last Society which the Dean of St. Paul's should have made his intermediary with the profession. Suffice it to say that after somewhat heated demands, the majority of those to whom tickets ought to have been allotted by right and courtesy were present at the Memorial Service, and were not a little surprised to find a goodly sprinkling of doctors and other non-professional people in the nurses' seats. It would be well that those responsible for these Memorial Services should have a list of Nursing Organizations and Services which have a right to representation. It might save some heartburning on a future occasion.

Many are the memorials proposed in honour of Miss Cavell, and amongst them Sir William James Thomas, of Ynishir, has given 1,000 guineas to endow a bed to her memory in King Edward VII Hospital at Cardiff. But do not let our remembrance of her obscure the fate of those associated with her, amongst them the young Princess Marie de Croy, condemned to ten years' hard labour for assisting the escape of British and French soldiers. At the trial she sought to take all the blame on herself, while pleading for her companions in misfortune.

At a meeting of the Scottish Council of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses (Scottish Branch), held in Edinburgh, the quarterly report was submitted, and showed that the council were directly responsible for the maintenance of 22 nurses and nine candidates

receiving instruction in the training home. Six nurses had received first appointments at Biggar, Connel, Jedburgh, Langholm (temp.), Maud, and Motherwell. Affiliation had been granted to one new nursing association. Thirty-four visits of inspection had been made, and reports on the work submitted to the Executive Committee. One hundred and thirty-six nurses had been called up for active service, 125 of whom were serving abroad or in the military hospitals at home, the remainder being attached to Red Cross hospitals. One thousand two hundred and ninety-seven cases had been nursed in Edinburgh by the nurses from the training home, necessitating a total of 23,630 visits. Donations received during the period amounted to £122 1s., subscriptions to £184 6s. 9d.

We have received a copy of the Calendar for 1916, compiled by the National Union of Trained Nurses, which comes in the most artistic cover, designed by Miss Violetta Thurstan, the organizing Secretary. "Per Ardua ad Astra" is the motto of the Union, and a beautiful female figure in Greek drapery, in her hand a wand with radiating star affixed, is poised lightly in pale light away above the world, her eyes cast downward enticing us to follow after the gleam of the sparkling Star. It is a charming fantasy.

The Calendar, which is so arranged that the dates can be slipped into the front page from year to year, associates with each month quotations on a special subject. To January, for instance, is given Stars and Skies. The quotations for each day of the year are exquisite and appropriate. Stars and Skies are such delectable delights that one longs to publish them all. Let "Michael Fairless" (a woman) and Shelley suffice.

A star rose flaming from Night's purple
sea :

The Star of Truth, the Star of Joy, the
Star

Seen by the prophets down the lonely years,
Set for a light to show the perfect way.

* * * *

The splendours of the firmament of time

May be eclipsed, but are extinguished not;
Like stars to their appointed height they climb
And death is a low mist which cannot blot
The brightness it may veil.

We advise every nurse to buy at least one of these Calendars; they cost a shilling, but will bring priceless pleasure if day by day the quotations are studied, understood, and valued. They are to be procured from the N.U.T.N. Office, 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W.

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