

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRON.

St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, W. — Miss K. F. Muriel Jackson has been appointed Matron. She was trained at St. George's Hospital, London, and was Ward Sister and Housekeeper there. Miss Jackson has also held the position of Assistant Matron to the Liverpool Royal Infirmary, and is at present Matron of the Warneford Hospital, Leamington.

ACTING MATRON.

Merthyr General Hospital.—Miss A. L. Watson has been appointed Acting Matron. She was at Guy's Hospital, and has been Acting Matron at Chelsea Hospital, Night Sister at the Royal Hospital, Guildford, and Sister at the Weston General Hospital. She is also a certificated Masseuse.

HEALTH VISITOR.

Borough of Folkestone, Urban District.—Mrs. Ellen Sievwright has been appointed Health Visitor. She has held a similar position at Cardiff; and has been Health Visitor and School Nurse at Ilkeston, and School Nurse under the Folkestone Education Committee.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S MILITARY NURSING SERVICE FOR INDIA.

Miss Noel R. Montgomerie and Miss Winifred M. Smith have been appointed Nursing Sisters, subject to their release from employment under the War Office.

ST. MARK'S HOSPITAL, CITY ROAD, E.C.

The Lord Mayor, who presided at the 81st Annual Meeting of this Hospital on Thursday, February 8th, in moving the adoption of the Report, said that the accounts showed an adverse balance of £600, due in a great measure to the large number of war appeals, and to considerable increase in the cost of everything connected with hospital administration. The need for this hospital was shown by the fact that it had treated 688 in-patients and nearly 1,800 new out-patients during the year.

Owing to the very serious nature of the operations performed at this hospital, a convalescent home is greatly needed to relieve the beds more quickly than can be managed under existing circumstances.

COMING EVENT.

February 17th.—Society for the State Registration of Nurses. Meeting Executive Committee. 431, Oxford Street, W. 4 p.m.

Annual subscriptions to the above Society are now due, and the Hon. Treasurer will be glad to receive them, addressed to her at 431, Oxford Street, London.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

AN OFFICIAL OPINION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, January 27th, a paragraph appeared containing a criticism of the Matron-in-Chief of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, which caused widespread regret, and, in the minds of many, deep indignation.

The best reply at the moment seemed to be the quiet dignity of silence.

As, however, in this week's issue, the matter is again referred to, I should be glad if this letter also might find a place in the next JOURNAL.

The penalty of a high position is often not only to have to bear a great burden of responsibility, but also to be severely criticised for actions, sometimes beyond individual control, and which quite frequently from being represented from one point of view only are greatly misunderstood. This presses hardly even on those of us who are able to reply by presenting the real facts of the case, but it is surely much harder (nay, even grossly unjust) on those, who, by reason of their position, are unable to do so.

Furthermore, ought we not to bear in mind that even in the small world of one hospital, there are always to be found dissatisfied members with grievances which do not always prove to be just ones. The Army Nursing Service, with its Reserve, now thousands in number (instead of hundreds as in a time of peace), drawn from all classes of general hospitals, with varieties of training, can hardly hope that all its members will be filled with that true sense of loyalty and *esprit de corps*, which prevents them from taking their grievances outside the sphere of the proper authorities for dealing with them.

It has been my privilege to be connected with the present Matron-in-Chief of the Regular Service since the days of the South African war, when I served as a Sister under her direction. Since August, 1914, I have worked in her office, week by week, as a member of the Selection Board. I am at the present time once again under her authority as my senior officer, in that I am Matron of the Officers' Hospital (attached to the Royal Free Hospital), which is staffed by the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve. During these fifteen years, I have gained some personal knowledge of the attitude of the members of the Service and the Reserve towards their chief Nursing Officer. I believe I am voicing the views of the large majority when I say that they have in her a just administrator, who is recognised as demanding and obtaining a high standard of efficiency in work and discipline, and yet one also to whom many, very many, hearts go out with

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)