

## DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATIONS.

District Nursing Associations have also been brought into the sphere of State Medicine in divers ways. In London these bodies are definitely subsidized by the L.C.C. in connection with their schemes for the medical treatment of school children.

Other bodies with important State Medical functions are the Ministry of Munitions and the Ministry of Pensions.

## THE GENERAL TENDENCY.

From general control of the environment of the mass of the people, State medicine has passed to the personal interest in the actual health of the individual. Also, the whole medical and nursing professions are surely, and not so very slowly, becoming involved in State Medicine. Instead of depending entirely for its emoluments upon the prevalence of ills and diseases amongst its neighbours, as was formerly the case, the medical profession is now becoming more and more rapidly interested in the diminution and prevention of disease.

(To be concluded.)

## OUR NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

The House of Commons completed its consideration of the Reform Bill, which grants votes for women, on Friday, December 7th, when it was read a third time without a division. The Bill is now under the consideration of the Lords, where, in spite of the haughty intolerance of the peeresses, the enfranchisement of women will remain the great reform in the Bill. Imagine the excitement and joy which would have thrilled us all in pre-war days at such a triumph for all our efforts! Now we just take it as a matter of course. No other policy was possible for any Member of Parliament who intends to cling to office at the next election. The life of the present Parliament is short, as it is hoped that if the Bill becomes law this Session it will be possible to get the register ready so that by July 31st, 1918, an appeal can be made to the new electors. Every trained nurse over thirty should find out whether she is an elector or not, and, if not, qualify for the vote if possible. With everyone either attempting to patronise, manage, control, govern or exploit us, we must rise to the occasion and realise our national and personal responsibility at once.

The appalling collision, by which thousands of the inhabitants of Halifax, Nova Scotia, have lost their lives, and, many more have been rendered homeless, including numbers of little children, is arousing widespread sympathy. We are glad to know that the Mansion House Appeal is being well supported. Doctors and nurses have gone from Canada and New York to the assistance of the sufferers.

## NURSING AND THE WAR.

The following members of the nursing profession had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on December 5th, when His Majesty bestowed upon them the following decorations:—

## THE MILITARY MEDAL.

Territorial Force Nursing Service.—Sister Dorothy Laughton.

## THE ROYAL RED CROSS.

## SECOND CLASS.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.—Sister Jane Stuart.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.—Matron Frances Lorrimer, Sisters Ethel Damon, Jessie Dunlop, Ella Grant, Mary Hocquard, Elsie Millman, Edith Rands, Vera Simpson, Kate Thomas, Staff Nurse Florence Gurton, and Miss Minnie McClew.

Territorial Force Nursing Service.—Sister Caroline Bayly.

Civil Nursing Service.—Matrons Kate Braidwood, Bessie Breden, Anne Brodie, Annie Brook, Mary Byrne, Eva Cook, Helen Cousins, Amy Davidson, Eva Dawson, Florence Dennant, Mrs. Calthorp, Assistant Matrons Ethel Brocklesbury, Elizabeth Butterworth, Sisters Clara Chaplin, Jean Collins, Jessie Dalgleish, Annie Davies, Maud Hewitt, and Nurse Mabel Varey.

British Red Cross Society.—Matrons Annie Cairns, Frances Cooke, Mary Davies and Sister Margaret Cuthbertson.

Voluntary Aid Detachment.—Matrons Florence Brigg, Mary Brodrick, Emily Marshall, Misses Margaret Cotesworth, Ethel Craig, Mrs. Crawshaw, Sisters Mary Burrige, Hilda Chater, Ethel Cryer, Misses Frances Belfield, Grace Brewer, Blanche Buxton, and Ethelwyn Drape.

Her Majesty Queen Alexandra received the decorated nurses at Marlborough House after the investiture.

The 1914 Star which is to be issued to all officers and men of the British and Indian forces and nurses who served in France or Belgium between August 5, 1914, and November 22, 1914, is a four-pointed star in bright bronze.

Two cross-swords, says an official statement, with a scroll inscribed, "Aug. 1914 Nov." intertwining, and encircled by an oak wreath with the royal cipher at the base, are embodied in it. At the top-most point of the star is a crown with a ring for the riband.

The riband, which is red, white and blue, shaded and watered, will be worn with the red nearest the buttons of the coat.

Every effort is being made to ensure that the star shall be produced as soon as possible, but owing to the scarcity of labour the issue will not be commenced for some months.

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