

NURSING AND THE WAR.

Sister Kate Maxey, of the Territorial Force Nursing Service, who received the Royal Red Cross (First Class) and also the Military Medal at the Investiture by the King on Saturday, received a well-deserved ovation. Sister Maxey, who was trained at the General Infirmary, Leeds, was awarded the Military Medal for distinguished service in the field for gallantry and devotion during the bombing of a casualty clearing station, when, although severely wounded she continued to help another Sister who had been fatally injured, and showed an inspiring example to all.

Miss Amy Miller gives a most interesting account in the *Alumnae Magazine* of the Johns Hopkins' Hospital at Baltimore, of the meeting of the Hospital Historical Club, when the evening was devoted to the life and work of Florence Nightingale. Books, pictures and other mementoes were on view. Miss M. Adelaide Nutting came from New York, and gave a very graphic account of a visit she paid to Miss Nightingale in her home in London, when she spent an hour with her, during which time Miss Nightingale, then a very old woman, held her hand and plied her with questions, her interest in nursing affairs on the other side of the Atlantic being very keen. Miss Nutting devoted a short time to the developments which followed as a result of Miss Nightingale's work in nursing matters, and spoke of the necessity for certain changes in training schools for carrying on the work in its ever-widening scope, which she thinks are vital to sound development and pleaded for endowment, as proper class rooms, laboratories, teaching forces and equipment are nowhere adequate, even in schools which enjoy the greatest appreciation of the importance of nurses' work.

Miss Nutting also spoke of the difficulties encountered by American nurses in the present situation confronting them, through the fact

that they have no rank in the Army and Navy. In the Service, rank is not just the gratification of personal ambition; it is the means by which more efficient service may be rendered. In an organization whose very being is built on the principle that responsibility must be supported by the authority which comes with rank, the nurses have not even a standing equal to that of a non-commissioned officer. Miss Nutting said:

"Our Canadian sisters are more fortunate; their country has seen fit to give them the rank of lieutenant when they enter the Army, and the chief nurses have the rank of major." They also have the pay.

Miss Nutting concluded her address by presenting to the school a copy of "Heroes and Hero Worship," by Thomas Carlyle, which had been sent to her from Miss Nightingale's library, after her death, by Mr. Henry Bonham Carter.

The climax of the evening was the presentation to the Training School by Dr. Howard Kelly of a collection of original Nightingale letters he had secured and had mounted. The book is hand-made throughout, bound in blue levant morocco, crushed and polished, lettered on the back and side. It contains an engrossed title page and précis of contents and sectional titles; also two portraits of Florence Nightingale. The book is contained in a levant morocco case, crushed and polished—a most precious gift, greatly valued by the graduates of the Johns Hopkins Training School for

Nurses. We commend the compilation of historical nursing data to British Training Schools.

The King of the Belgians has conferred the *Medaille de la Reine Elisabeth* on Miss E. M. Roberts, R.R.C., Chief Matron, British Committee of the French Red Cross, recently a Matron under the Joint War Committee at 83, Pall Mall, S.W. Miss Roberts is Matron of King Albert's Hospital for Belgians, Storr Street, W.C. Miss Roberts is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association.



SISTER KATE MAXEY, R.R.C., M.M.

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