

THE OVERSEAS NURSING ASSOCIATION.

The twenty-second annual report of the Colonial Nursing Association (now the Overseas Nursing Association) states that in the face of the present difficulties it was hardly to be expected that any new developments in the work would take place. The Committee are, therefore, pleased to record that in three instances requests for nurses in new fields of labour have been met. A Matron and two nurses have been supplied to the British Hospital, Lisbon; a female Head Attendant to the St. Anne's Lunatic Asylum, Trinidad; and two nurses for Government service in what before the war was German East Africa.

The Committee continue to receive encouraging reports of nurses serving abroad. In Nyasaland Miss R. Paterson, Matron of the Government Hospitals, and Nursing Sister A. Pallot have been decorated with the Royal Red Cross, and were mentioned in a Dispatch from Brigadier-General Northey "for their splendid work during the past year." Nineteen additional badges for meritorious service for five years and upwards have been awarded. The Committee record with deep regret the death of two of their nurses on their voyage home to this country on leave. Miss M. Graham, from Southern Nigeria, was a passenger on the ss. "Abasso," torpedoed on May 17th, and Miss M. Poulter on the ss. "Appapa," torpedoed in December last.

Nothing definite appears to have been done towards supplying midwives to the outlying districts of Canada, concerning which proposal there was some strong criticism expressed from Canada last year. The report states:—"It is felt that this matter can only be taken in hand in compliance with the wishes of the Canadian Authorities, but active steps are being taken to make it known that the Association is anxious to lend its aid in the selection and provision of nurse midwives from the Mother Country."

The Dowager Countess Grey, Miss Amy Hughes, and Major D. K. McDowell, C.M.G., R.A.M.C., have been elected to fill vacancies on the committee.

HOSPITAL WORLD.

In consequence of the increasing number of Child Welfare Centres in North London, the Committee of the Great Northern Central Hospital, Holloway, have established a Consultative Centre for Children. Consultations will be on Wednesday and Thursday each week, when children referred from any Welfare Centre in North London will be seen by appointment. At a later date a Clinic for Children will be inaugurated.

LONDON HOSPITAL NURSES.

A lively correspondence has been kept up in the *Times* on the "farming out" of two years' trained nurses at the London Hospital, subsequent to Major Chapple's question on the subject in the House of Commons.

Lord Knutsford, the Chairman, and a keen supporter of the lucrative intensive system of training at the London Hospital, repeats his convictions, and accuses Major Chapple of trickery in the House.

Colonel Maurice, A.M.S., supports in a well-reasoned speech the sound economic claims of Major Chapple.

Then, of course, in butts Sir Henry Burdett, and presumes to "voice the wish of the nursing profession," and "ventures" incidentally "to appeal to the Chairman of the London Hospital" to do justice to the probationary nurses under his control, and abandon the ambiguous system of giving a two years' certificate of training, and supplementing it with a second at the end of two years' private work—a system Sir Henry has supported with vehemence in his nurses' papers, especially when "Bart's" nurses protested against the depreciation of their three years' certificate, when a "Londoner" was thrust upon them as Matron with the lower qualification!

Lord Knutsford returns to the attack on July 11th and 16th, and points out that neither Sir Henry Burdett nor "his son-in-law," Colonel Maurice, "have given any reason why the London Hospital should change its methods." He trots out the well-known fact that both the Matrons-in-Chief—in England and France—of Q.A.I.M.N.S. are "Londoners," but fails to inform the public that he and other officials of the London Hospital have seats on the Nursing Board which made these appointments! As the dispute is one of the exploitation of the Nursing Profession, Lord Knutsford might very pertinently have invited Sir H. B. to disclose the profits on his nurses' papers, and prove how entirely disinterested has been his connection with our profession for the past thirty years!

Up to date Major Chapple sits on velvet; he repeats his statements categorically, and no one can disprove them.

Nurses with only two years' experience are certified as "trained" and "farmed out" for the profit of the charity, under a contract for a further two years' service.

It is significant that the emoluments paid to the Matron who originated, and controls, this profitable business are considerably in advance of those of any other Matron in the kingdom.

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