

HONOURS FOR NURSES.

On Saturday morning last, the King held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace, when the following ladies had the honour of being received by His Majesty, who conferred upon them the following decorations:—

ROYAL RED CROSS (SECOND CLASS).

Australian Army Nursing Service.—Sister Marie Fielding, Sister Ilma Lovell, and Sister Eva MacDonald. (See picture on page 314).

The recipients were afterwards received by Queen Alexandra at Marlborough House.

NURSING ECHOES.

At the important conference between the Medical Parliamentary Committee and other organizations held at the Central Hall, Westminster, on May 2nd, a few nurses' societies were invited to send representatives. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Lieut.-Colonel Goodall attended for the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses.

It was agreed that a permanent Medical Parliamentary Committee be formed to focus the trend of opinion on health questions.

The constitution of the Committee, which was agreed, included two representatives of the Nursing Profession, and a representative of Midwives.

Mrs. Fenwick expressed gratification at the inclusion, for the first time, of Nursing representatives on a Medical Committee, and expressed the opinion that they would be able to provide very useful information for the benefit of the community.

Yet another hospital has raised the pay of its nursing staff, and Lord Greville, presiding at a meeting of the Committee of St. George's Hospital, Hyde Park, W., announced the changes as follows:—Assistant Matron, from £60-£80 to £100-£120 by increase of £5 a year; Sister Housekeeper and Nurses' Home Sister, from £60-£70 to £70-£100 by increase of £5 a year; Night Superintendent, from £50-£60 to £70-£90 by increase of £5 a year; Sister of the Out-Patient Department, advance to £75-£100; Sister Tutor (a new appointment), £70-£90; Sister of the Electro-Therapeutic Department, £100-£150; Ward Sisters, £35-£50 to £50-£80; Staff Nurses, from £26 to £35 for their one year; Probationers, third year £25, second year £20, first year £15, with uniform (reckoned at £3 or £4 a year) and laundry. The former first year pay was £10 without uniform.

The immediate cost of the changes above set out will be £715 a year, and this will increase to an ultimate total of £1,470 a year. The Committee feel fully justified by the nature of the work done by the nurses in incurring this liability, and they hope their action will be supported by the increased help of the general public.

We hope so, too.

Arrangements have also been made to reduce the working hours of the nursing staff, and it is hoped in the near future to be able to obtain an additional number of nurses, so that the hours on duty may be still further reduced.

A scheme is under consideration at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, for increasing the off-duty time of the nursing staff. Hitherto the Sisters' hours have been fifty, Staff Nurses sixty-three, and probationers sixty-four a week. These hours compare well with many other institutions. All grades are to be allowed an 11 p.m. weekly pass if they wish. The extra "days off" will start as soon as the necessary probationers required can be secured.

The hours of duty of the nurses at the Royal Portsmouth and Gosport Hospital are to be reduced from 65 to 55 per week. It was stated at the meeting of the Management Committee that unless this was agreed to it would be impossible to obtain the nursing staff.

Miss Davy, who has returned to Uxbridge after four and a half years' service as a nursing sister, has been on all fronts, and was the first nursing sister to enter Jerusalem with the British troops when they captured the city.

Miss Alice Simpkin (formerly Sister Hope at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and now a member of the Universities Mission to Central Africa, at Kota Kota, Nyasaland), writes:— "We do badly want more nurses—just now I am wrestling with some 260 to 300 out-patients every day, about 18 in-patients, and, at the present writing, some 15 influenza cases near by. I have three boys to help me. Now that the war is over I think some will find they have vocations for mission work, at least I hope so.

"How are things going at home, and what hope for State Registration? Do you know anyone who would send us the JOURNAL after they have finished with it? One gets so rusty.

"I have been able to inoculate a good many of the Africans against influenza and pneumonia, which I think is rather wonderful, here in the wilds of Central Africa."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)