

public administration. These, and many other branches of Civics, are being actively organised and studied in the New York School of Social Work (formerly School of Philanthropy) which is affiliated with Columbia University, and trained nurses—as well as others—have joined the campaign to “leaven and regenerate the world” by qualifying themselves for some of the various branches of Civics. Trained nurses doing Public Health work are *ex officio* Social Service workers, and I hold that women equipped with the best nursing training and experience available, are among the most suitable to enter the higher branches of Civics, provided always that their personality approximates in some measure to the vision of the Professor mentioned above.

A new era is beginning—the era of public health—and the urgent reform of the State Registration of Trained Nurses is assured. The one may be considered the complement of the other. The conditions of demobilisation have been very unfair to our Army Nurses, and there have consequently been many hardships, in spite of the excellent work of the Trained Nurses Re-settlement Committee. Many are out of work because the supply is greater than the demand. The establishment of a London School of Social Work, with branches in Edinburgh and Dublin, on the lines of that in New York, would be of undeniable benefit to the community, and, by co-ordinating effort, of great economic value. In the meantime there are plenty of openings for nurses of lawful ambition. I would urge them not to allow themselves, if possible, to drift into what has been aptly called “backwater posts” with inadequate salaries. It is to be deplored that our Government has not copied the generous act of the Australian Government towards their demobilised Nurses, namely, to give them free training in some branch of knowledge, and six shillings a day during the period of training. In the case of the Australian Army Nurses, the choice was given of midwifery or massage. I would suggest that a wider choice should be given, such as some branch of welfare work. Considering the very small salaries that our Nurses have received for their magnificent work during the war, this would have been a graceful act, and of great practical value, besides being of great economic value to the Country.

“Penny wise and pound foolish” is a ruinous policy. In spite of appearances, I feel that there is a good time coming for Nurses, but let them be themselves articulate.

BEATRICE KENT.

THE TRAINED NURSES' ANNUITY FUND.

GENEROUS PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT.

The Honorary Secretary of the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund has received through the Army Trustee the sum of £856 4s. 9d., as a donation to the Fund. This sum was contributed by the Sisters of the 7th, 58th and 59th General Hospitals in France and Flanders.

The members of the Imperial Military Nursing Service have shown the greatest generosity in helping those members of the profession who, from ill-health or other cause, are unable to continue their work. Two annuities have been founded which, in accordance with the wishes of the contributors, are to be known as the Dame Ethel Becher and Dame Maud McCarthy Annuities respectively, in order to commemorate the work of those ladies as heads of the Military Nursing Service throughout the war. Other annuities, as already indicated in former reports of the Annuity Fund, are known as Queen Alexandra War Memorial Annuities.

A cheque has been received for 65,400 francs contributed by all the members of the Imperial Nursing Service in France, who have served there from 1914-1919. The value of this donation in English money at the present time, is £1,438 10s.

Contributions to this Fund should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, 10, Orchard Street, W. 1.

HONOUR FOR AN R.B.N.A. MEMBER.

We learn with much pleasure that Miss Mona Ker has been awarded the Royal Red Cross (Second Class). Miss Ker has had a very varied career and has been Matron of several important hospitals in the colonies. Added to great personal charm, she has a very kindly interest in all that concerns those of her own profession and many of us in the R.B.N.A. feel much gratified that her services during the war have received the recognition they deserve.

OBITUARY.

It is with deep regret that we have received intimation of the death of Mr. Pickering Pick, F.R.C.S., who passed away recently at his residence, The Nook, Great Bookham. Mr. Pick has been an invalid for several years, but in former days he took a very active interest in the Association, and was Vice-Chairman for many years. He was consulting surgeon to several hospitals, among them St. George's, and was well known among several of the older members of the R.B.N.A.

NOTICE.

Forms of application for membership, and the badge of the Association can be obtained on application to the Secretary, 10, Orchard Street, Portland Square, W. 1.

(Signed) ISABEL MACDONALD, *Secretary.*

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