

was sure the Board would join him in congratulating the Matron and Sisters at the Infirmary who had gained decorations for war service. The Matron had the Royal Red Cross, and she had very generously said that it was given to the institution and not to her personally. This showed a very fine spirit. Eight nurses had gained the medal of the second class, and he thought much credit was due to Sir Arthur Stanley, who took the matter up. Mr. Ward, a member of the Board, too, had been hammering away at the Ministry and the local Members of Parliament, trying to get the services of these ladies recognised."

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL.

Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Marylebone Road, N.W., the largest Maternity Hospital in England, is in very great need of help at the present time. During the past five years, owing to the great increase in prices, the income has been insufficient to meet the expenditure and a debt of £10,000 has accumulated. The applications for admission of patients have increased considerably; 2,000 poor women were admitted to the wards last year and over 2,000 have been attended and nursed in their own homes.

The extension and improvements about to be commenced when war broke out are urgently needed, quite £50,000 will be required.

The Committee earnestly appeal for generous support to enable them to cope with the ever-increasing demands on the help of the hospital.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Secretary R.B.N.A.

DEAR MISS MACDONALD,—We are enclosing a small cheque which a few of your friends and well-wishers have collected as a little gift for you, and we would like you to buy a watch or a bicycle with it. As you will remember, some of the nurses started a plan last summer to give you a present, but you found it out and persuaded us to drop it. It was, as you will remember, with the greatest reluctance that we did give way, and those nurses who had already subscribed refused to have their money back. If you had only allowed us to go on we know the amount would have been fourfold, however it comes with all our expressions of gratitude and esteem for you and your work for the R.B.N.A. We did hope to have a little tea and present our gift, but time is so precious.

Please put our letter in the JOURNAL, because we wish the nurses to know what was done with the money, and that you had their gift at Christmas time. Also some among your friends have been vexed because they were not asked to give and we wish them to know that it was because one of us promised you that the matter would go no further. With all good wishes to you always,

Yours very sincerely,

ALICE CATTELL,
CECILIA LIDDIATT.
M. E. NASH.

THE SECRETARY'S REPLY.

Dear Miss Cattell, Miss Liddiatt, Miss Nash, and Fellow Members,—Your gift has come as a great surprise to me, for, when last summer I played the part of Sherlock Holmes and drew correct deductions on observing a number of letters, addressed in familiar handwritings, passing through the office, and also certain conclaves in which I had not part, I imagined that my Scottish persistence and capacity for argument would, and subsequently had, prevailed upon you to discard your very kind and very generous scheme. Please believe me when I say that the position I took in regard to this was not due to any lack of appreciation of your kindness nor, in any sense, to ingratitude. On the contrary you can never know how deeply I have valued your kind thought and your obvious reluctance to give way to my scruples. Those scruples were, however, very real ones, for no one knows better than I what the struggle of the past few years has cost the Association and the nurses. It has been no easy thing for them to fight their battle for the right on their earnings, against those who have held unlimited control over large sums of money, in pushing forward their unjust claims for preferential treatment from the State. Moreover, I know full well how generously and wholeheartedly the R.B.N.A. nurses respond to any appeal, whether it may reach them on behalf of their Profession, their Association, or one or other of their Benevolent Schemes. Again, as I told you in the summer, we have been such "good comrades" in the struggle of the last few years; everyone has done her part in her own place, and it really made me feel ashamed that I should be singled out in any way for recognition. Besides, there are others who have done so very much more than I.

I think I shall have the bicycle, because I always get such utter and unmixed pleasure out of a wheel, and so the R.B.N.A. Nurses will always be in my thoughts in my happiest hours; and with me, at those times, will be the memory of the days when we fought together through these last long heavy months of the battle for a just Registration Act for the nurses. I thank you all for your gift and for the love and kindness and friendship that make it such a pleasure at all times to work among you and for you.

With every good wish and again heartfelt thanks.

Believe me,

Very sincerely yours,
ISABEL MACDONALD.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

We beg to return our sincere thanks for all the letters and telegrams of congratulation which have reached the office in connection with the passage of the Acts for the State Registration of Nurses.

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

10, Orchard Street, W.

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