

## NATION'S FUND FOR NURSES.

### QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

At question time in the House of Commons on Monday, March 14th:

Mr. J. Davison (Lab., Smethwick) asked the Lord Privy Seal whether the Government had any control over the administration of the Nation's Fund for Nurses; whether he was aware that although one of the main objects of the fund was for the benefit of present nurses who were in precarious circumstances owing to after-war conditions or were suffering ill-health as a result of war strain, out of a total of nearly £150,000 only £2,144 had been applied to this purpose, whilst nearly £40,000 had been given to the College of Nursing; and whether inquiries could be made into the administration of this fund.

The Prime Minister: The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. I have no knowledge as to the manner in which the funds of the charity are applied, and I would suggest that the Hon. Member should place himself in communication with the Charity Commissioners.

Mr. Lyle (C.U., Stratford, E.): Is it not a fact that the suggestion made against this magnificent fund has been made by ill-disposed people who were chagrined at not having started such a fund themselves?

No answer was given.

The fact remains that the indigent nurses of this country have been put in the forefront of this appeal as the object of public charity. That an appeal in war-time for the endowment of the College of Nursing, Ltd., if this object of the fund had been emphasised would not have elicited the response from the public which the war-nurse in distress has done, and that of the money subscribed nearly £40,000 has been given to the College of Nursing, Ltd., £8,000 has been spent by the Committee of the Fund on official expenses, and only £2,144 has been given to nurses in financial distress during two-and-a-half years. Moreover, applicants to this Fund have complained bitterly of the inadequacy of small doles, and have been advised to support themselves by needlework, housekeeping, and other occupations at which they could not earn a living.

Mr. Leonard Lyle, M.P. (Chairman of Queen Mary's Hospital for the East End), naturally supports the College of Nursing, Ltd., whose spokesman he was in the House of Commons in support of their Nurses' Registration Bill.

Mr. Lyle poses loudly as the nurses' friend. We ask him, does he approve of the relative grants made by the Nation's Fund for nurses to distressed nurses and the College of Nursing, Ltd.

The money was raised in the name of the nation's nurses, and the nation's Nurses intend to agitate until this fund is justly administered and adequate publicity given to its proceedings.

## QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE.

In the House of Commons on Monday:

Viscountess Astor asked the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the present pay for members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service is at the rate of £60 to £65 for a staff nurse and £75 to £85 for a sister; and whether he will consider the desirability of revising this scale of pay, with a view to continuing to attract the type of woman required if the high standard of this branch of the service is to be maintained?

Sir A. Williamson replied, the scales of pay and other emoluments of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service were revised in August last after very full consideration, and I am not aware of any new grounds for re-opening the question at the present time.

## HONOURS FOR NURSES.

By command of the King, the Marquess of Crewe, as Lord Lieutenant of the County of London, held an Investiture on Saturday last at the County Hall, Spring Gardens, S.W., when the following ladies were decorated with the Royal Red Cross (second class): Miss Mary White, 14, St. George's Square, S.W., Mrs. Elizabeth Barclay Thomas, Fernbank Hospital, Roehampton, Miss Mary F. Smith, Sister-in-Charge X-ray Department, Great Northern Hospital, Miss Dorothy Bailey, Nurses' Home, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C., and Miss Nannie O'Dowd, Great Northern Hospital.

## APPOINTMENTS.

### MATRON.

Corporation Maternity Home, Dunfermline.—Mrs. E. M. S. Spoor has been appointed Matron at the Corporation Maternity Home, Dunfermline. She was trained at the Edinburgh Royal Maternity and Simpson Memorial Hospital, and has held the positions of Night Superintendent, Out-patient Sister, District Superintendent, and Assistant Matron at the same Institution, and for two years was Matron of the Gretna Maternity Home. She has recently been acting as Relief Matron for the Bradford Corporation.

### SISTER.

South London Hospital for Women, South Side, Clapham Common, S.W.—Miss Dorothy Gibson has been appointed Ward Sister. She was trained in Children's Nursing at the Evelina Hospital, and in General Nursing at the Middlesex Hospital, and has worked as a member of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve for five years as Sister, Night Superintendent and Home Sister.

Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton, Surrey.—Miss Eva Jordan has been appointed Sister. She was trained at the Royal Albert Hospital, Devonport, and has been a Staff Nurse in Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. in charge of wards and theatre. She has had experience of private nursing and is a certified midwife.

Infectious Diseases Hospital, Portsmouth.—Miss Mabel Price has been appointed Sister. She was trained at St. George's Infirmary, E., and has been Staff Nurse at the Royal Hospital, Plymouth.

Mildmay Memorial Hospital, Newington Green.—Miss Beatrice Whittingham has been appointed Sister. She was trained at King's College Hospital, and has been

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