

The report of the Bedford District Nursing Association, 3, St. Peter's Street, Bedford (affiliated with the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses), shows that the number of visits paid by the Superintendent and four nurses during the past year was 16,984, of which 13,501 were free, an increase on the number paid in the previous year of 2,751, pointing to the necessity of providing another nurse. The Committee record that they have received most welcome assistance from the Invalid Help Branch of the St. John's Ambulance Association, and tender their thanks for the invalid appliances, invalid dietary, and light dinners received through the Hon. Superintendent, Mrs. Alfred Paine.

The grant from the Central Demobilisation Fund of the British Red Cross Society, and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, has enabled the Association to carry on, but with the increase of expenses, in bringing up the salaries and allowances of the Superintendent and nurses to the standard required by the Queen's Jubilee Institute, to be met in the forthcoming year, and the prospect of the necessity for employing another nurse owing to the increased work, the Committee are earnestly appealing for an increase in the subscriptions and donations.

The increased cost of maintenance has hit all classes, and special efforts have had to be made to support existing charities, foremost among them being the District Nursing Associations affiliated to the Q.V.J.I. It is highly desirable to have an endowment fund to cover running expenses, and an influential committee of ladies and gentlemen in Tunbridge Wells have decided to organise a garden fête for this purpose, the existing Home having been bought for a memorial of our late Queen Victoria. Among the attractions is a competition stall, with handsome prizes in each class, the articles to be sold for the benefit of the Fund. Particulars will be found in our advertisement columns.

On Sunday last, at the Tir National, Brussels, was unveiled a monument to thirty-five men and women (including Nurse Cavell) who had been executed there during the war by the Germans. Those present included the King and Queen of the Belgians, Cardinal Mercier, and Burgomaster Max, as well as the relatives of the thirty-five victims, and children from various schools. A battalion of infantry formed a firing party. The Prime Minister, M. Carton de Wiart, paid a tribute to the heroism of the dead and recalled the story of Nurse Cavell.

The monument consists of a slab of granite, on which is inscribed:—"Ici tombèrent sous balles allemandes trente-cinq héros, victimes de leur attachement à la patrie." Before leaving, the King and Queen greeted and conversed with the relatives.

From the *Westminster Gazette* we cull this glimpse of Edith Cavell's grave:—

"I was in Norwich yesterday, and I made my way to the spot where Nurse Cavell lies, beneath the shadow of the cathedral. The grave is all abloom with primroses and violets and other spring flowers, and altogether it forms a beautiful little garden, standing by itself in an enclosed green. Many visitors, I find, have the idea that Nurse Cavell is buried within the cathedral, and notices have had to be posted in the nave, directing people to the actual spot, which is not very easily found, outside the building and under a window to the south-east. At the head of the grave is a small cross, like those in a war cemetery, recording only her name and the date of her death. There is no other inscription or emblem whatsoever, and I found it much more satisfying, simple as it is, than the big memorial in London."

The following letter from a "Dublin Nurse" appears in the *Freeman's Journal*, headed "Nurse Lina Kearns":—

"Irish nurses are horrified to read the sentence which has been passed on a member of their profession. We cannot go into the merits or demerits of the case, simply for the reason that the trial and its findings have not been published, which seems an extraordinary thing.

"Nurse Kearns belongs to a family of nurses, having four sisters trained. She received her training at the Royal City of Dublin Hospital, and passed all her examinations with honours. She is a member of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses, and also a member of the Irish Nurses' Union. In her nursing career of nearly fifteen years she worked in Achill during the terrible influenza epidemics of 1918 and 1919. She gave her services voluntarily as masseuse in Dublin Castle Hospital. She has a host of friends amongst her private patients, one of whom left her an annuity which enabled her to buy a motor car which is now confiscated.

"As far as we know, this is the first case in which a member of our profession has ever received sentence for a political offence, with the exception of Nurse Cavell.

"Ten years' penal servitude is a most drastic sentence, and surely all nurses should join together (no matter what their political views may be) to protest against this severity and ask for its mitigation."

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