

often at great self-sacrifice; and we were reminded of this duty at a dinner presided over by Sir Alfred Mond, the Minister of Health, at the Hotel Cecil, of the staff and former patients of Queen Alexandra's Hospital for Officers, Highgate, when he read, amid enthusiasm, the following message which Queen Alexandra had addressed from Marlborough House to Mr. Herbert J. Paterson, honorary surgeon in charge of the hospital. The letter stated:—

"Queen Alexandra remembers so well the splendid work which you and your staff carried on during the war, and upon her constant visits was particularly struck with the efficiency of the nurses and of all those concerned with the management of her hospital. Her Majesty also cannot forget that it was mainly through the generosity of Sir Alfred Mond that the hospital was so perfectly maintained. Her Majesty thinks that it is a happy thought holding this dinner, and she feels sure that the former patients present will rejoice to meet again those to whose kind care and attention they owe so much."

Part of the St. Pancras Workhouse is to be converted into a nurses' home at a cost of £10,000.

The following nominations to the Voluntary Hospitals Commission have now been made:—

Lord Onslow (Chairman), Lord Clwyd, Captain Elliott, M.P., Sir Robert Hudson, and Mr. D. O. Malcolm, nominated by the Minister of Health; Lord Linlithgow, nominated by the Secretary for Scotland; Sir Napier Burnett, M.D., nominated by the Joint Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem; Sir Cooper Perry, M.D., nominated by the King Edward's Hospital Fund; Mr. H. Wade Deacon, nominated by the British Hospitals Association; Sir John Rose Bradford, F.R.C.P., nominated by the Royal College of Physicians; Sir George Makins, F.R.C.S., nominated by the Royal College of Surgeons; Dr. R. A. Bolam, nominated by the British Medical Association.

The remaining member will be nominated by the Scottish Committee of the British Medical Association.

Mr. I. G. Brock, C.B., Ministry of Health, has been appointed secretary.

We regret to note no woman has been appointed on to this Commission.

A conference of representatives of London Hospitals was held at the Mansion House on Wednesday, July 6th, Lord Stuart of Wortley, Chairman of the King's Fund Policy Committee, presiding. Invitations were issued to 112 Hospitals and 161 persons were present, of whom 154 represented 94 hospitals. The object of the conference was to discuss the three schemes of "mass contributions," referred to by Lord Cave's Committee in their final report, as likely to provide the key to the problem of hospital finance.

After an enlightening discussion:—

On the motion of Lord Hambledon, seconded by Sir Edward Penton, it was unanimously agreed

That this Conference suggests that King Edward's Hospital Fund should co-operate with the London Regional Committee of the British Hospitals Association, the Hospital Fund, the Hospital Saturday Fund, and the League of Mercy, in the organisation of local collections from employees throughout the London area.

The Duke of York opened King George's Sanatorium for Sailors at Bramshott, on Tuesday, July 12th.

The Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund collection already amounts to £70,000.

### THE GREEK NURSING UNIT.

The Queen of the Hellenes arrived at Smyrna on July 7th, where she will inspect the Military Hospitals, and encourage those who are tending the sick and wounded.

Sister Oakley Williams reports the hospital St. Charalombos, Smyrna, in which they are working, very nice; "we hope to run it like an English one. Every body is kindness itself to us; we have so many engagements, we can hardly fit them in. We are making the best of time, before our work begins in real earnest. Two *B.J.N.*'s to-day, so nice to see all the home news."

As the press reports the advance of the Greek Army led by King Constantine, no doubt the Sisters are by now at work in "real earnest." Sisters Baxter and Browne crossed to Smyrna in a hospital ship escorted by one of the "Palace policemen!"

A good many surgeons and others speak English so difficulties in this particular are minimised. The Sisters find their knowledge of French (which we laughingly call "kitchen French") exceedingly useful.

We wonder if the day will ever come when the General Nursing Council will have an Honours Exam. for foreign languages. At present, of course, we dare not suggest such an innovation!

Sister Bellamy, who writes an excellent letter, is thoroughly enjoying the change of scene and work. She says: "The patients appear to think the English Sisters can accomplish all things." The Queen has paid three visits to the hospital where she and Sister Dumvill are on duty and they are naturally much encouraged by her Majesty's appreciation of their work. To be told "how nice and clean everything is, quite like an English hospital," is the sort of praise they enjoy. Play is pleasant as well as work. "Last Tuesday," Sister writes, "we went for a glorious picnic up Mount Pentelikos—part of the way by car, and then we had donkeys. I was on excellent terms with mine all the time; he was rather slow but picked his steps beautifully, especially coming down. We descended by the light of a big, splendid full moon, the most delightful experience I have ever had. Everything so quiet and mysterious."

We know those mystical moonlit nights in Greece after the pink flush of evening has suddenly faded. A scent of thyme and quite far, far, away the sound of a pipe. It is then the world belongs to the old Gods!

Other treats have been provided for the Sisters by numerous kind friends in Athens. A trip to Dionysis, to the Marble Mountains, was, of course, greatly

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