

## HONOURS FOR NURSES.

### ROYAL RED CROSS.

The following ladies were invested with the Decoration of the Royal Red Cross, by His Majesty the King, at Buckingham Palace, on Thursday, February 9th:—

Received a Bar.—Principal Matron Mary Rannie, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

Members.—Matron Annie Hill, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve; Sister Elizabeth Ohlsson, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve; May, Mrs. Shaw, British Red Cross Society; Matron Elizabeth Davies, British Red Cross Society; Matron Ida Mackintosh, British Red Cross Society; Sister Louise Hicks, British Red Cross Society; and Sister Edith Cobb, Civil Hospitals.

### MÉDAILLE DE LA RECONNAISSANCE FRANÇAISE.

The Vicomtesse de la Panouse, President of the British Committee of the French Red Cross has, in a most kind letter, notified Miss Edith Wadsworth of the Registered Nurses' Society, who for three years during the war did excellent service, in connection with the French Flag Nursing Corps, for the French sick and wounded, that she has been awarded the Médaille de la Reconnaissance Française. The Vicomtesse writes:—"I hope that this medal of the Reconnaissance Française—modest as it may be—will speak to you, with the gratitude of my country, of all my deep and affectionate admiration for the immense good you have effected in aiding and solacing my unhappy compatriots during the war."

## QUEEN'S NURSES' BENEVOLENT FUND.

Hardly ten years have gone by since the inception of this Fund, but in that time over £2,400 have been raised through the efforts of Queen's Nurses themselves and the Committees of local Associations, aided by a yearly grant of £50 from Alexandra Day, the name of the Fund having been placed on Queen Alexandra's own list. All this money has been invested, with the exception of the necessary amount required for working expenses (which are kept as low as possible). In 1921 the interest derived was £88 10s. 9d., and it is from the interest that all expenses are paid each year, the capital being left untouched in order that the largest amount may be gained from the investments. Four Queen's Nurses, who have become totally disabled as the result of long and severe illness and can no longer carry on their work, are now receiving £20 a year each, and their fellow nurses feel only too glad that they should be able to help them in this way.

The Queen's Nurses' Benevolent Fund is proving the great need for its existence, but the Committee have not sufficient money at their disposal to enable them to undertake more than they are at present doing, and it will not be possible to entertain more applications, should any be made. If a larger number of Queen's

Nurses will support their own Fund, its sphere of usefulness will in proportion be greatly enlarged. Subscriptions should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, 27, Bessborough Gardens, London, S.W.1, who will also gladly supply any further information on receipt of a post-card.

## NATIONAL INSURANCE.

Sir Alfred Mond, Minister of Health, has introduced a Bill to amend the National Health Insurance Act.

It provides for the increase of the payments of both employers and work-people by a half-penny a week. Employers pay 5d. for both men and women, and after the passing of this Bill their obligation will be 5½d.; men now pay 5d. and women 4d. The State contributions remain unchanged. In return for this extra payment contributors will be entitled to dental benefit, but it is calculated that the net effect will be to the financial advantage of the State.

The Ministers of Health and Labour have jointly appointed an Inter-Departmental Committee to consider the relations of Health Insurance and Unemployment Insurance, and to investigate the possibility of reducing the total cost of administration by modifying the unemployment insurance scheme and by amalgamating unemployment and health insurance cards, records, and, as far as possible, administration.

Both these Acts are very unpopular with nurses, as they are not calculated to meet their needs. But there is no reason why a system of insurance from which they might receive adequate benefit should not be devised, in times of sickness and unemployment. In the meanwhile the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., gives full sick pay at the rate of 14s. 6d. a week, which quite a number of nurses by no means despise in these hard times.

## TRUE TALE WITH A MORAL.

We stood in Oxford Street on Monday to watch the procession of the unemployed, when thousands of men of all ages—closely guarded by police—marched from the Embankment to Marble Arch. It was a terrible heart-rending sight. Shivering in their poor clothes they did not appear to have a superfluous ounce of flesh amongst them. We overheard the following conversation:—

*Well-dressed woman*: "Why don't you turn the foreigners out?"

*Policeman*: "You'd better not say that to them."

*Woman*: "Why?"

*Policeman*: "Cos it might incite them to violence, and then things would be worse."

*Woman*: "Seems to me things couldn't be worse for them—unless they were in hell." And off she flung, feeling no doubt relieved with having had the last word, and hot and strong at that.

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