

## APPOINTMENTS.

### MATRON.

**Borough of Plymouth Council Sanatorium, Udal Torre, Yelverton, Devon.**—Miss Hannah Carstairs has been appointed Matron. She was trained at Middlesex Hospital and Apothecaries' Hall, and has held the positions of Night Sister and Dispenser at Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital, Alton, and at the Yeovil District Hospital, War Service, France, 1914-1917, and Matron, Northampton Borough Hospital, and of Harold Court Sanatorium.

**The Oxford and County Mental Hospital.**—Miss Eleanor Joan Broad has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Royal Berks Hospital, Reading, and the City of London Maternity Hospital, and has been Sister at Horton Mental Hospital. She holds the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association, is a certified Midwife, and a State Registered Nurse, being on both the General and the Mental Registers. She also holds a certificate from the Royal Chest Hospital, City Road, E.C.

**Kainshill Sanatorium, Kilmarnock.**—Miss Janet Gordon has been appointed Matron. She was trained at Salisbury Infirmary, and has held the positions of Sister in Charge of the Observation Block at Lodgmoor Fever Hospital, Sheffield, in Army Nursing Service for 3½ years, and Assistant Matron of Belvidere Hospital, Glasgow.

### NURSE-MATRON.

**Isolation Hospital, Gosport.**—Miss E. Percy has been appointed Nurse-Matron. She has been Ward Sister, Night Sister, and Home Sister at Portsmouth Isolation Hospital, where she at present holds the position of Assistant Matron. During the war she served as a Sister in the Territorial Force Nursing Service at home and abroad, and had entire charge of an Isolation Camp, including smallpox cases.

### SUPERINTENDENT NURSE.

**Richmond Union, Surrey.**—Miss Mary Coyne has been appointed Superintendent Nurse. She was trained at the Prescot Infirmary, and has been Sister at the Aston Infirmary and the Bagthorpe Infirmary, and Superintendent Nurse at the Staines, Nantwich, and Bromley-by-Bow Infirmaries.

### HOME SISTER.

**Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin.**—Miss Esther Walker has been appointed Home Sister. She was trained, and has held the position of Ward Sister, in the same institution, and has been a member of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve for eight years.

### SISTER.

**Stamford, Rutland, and General Infirmary, Stamford.**—Miss Elizabeth Browne has been appointed Theatre and Ward Sister. She was trained at the Bolton Infirmary and Dispensary, and at the Monsall Fever Hospital, and has been Sister at the Merthyr General Hospital, and Ward and Theatre Sister at the Bolton Infirmary and Dispensary, and the Rochdale Infirmary, and Ward and Night Sister at the Royal Hospital, Chesterfield.

### QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE INSTITUTE.

#### TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Miss Isabel Pope is appointed to Chatham as Senior Nurse; Miss Jessie Ferguson, to Hyde; Miss Catherine Hammonds, to Stamford; Miss Amy Lewis, to St. Hilda's, Leeds; Miss Florence E. Pethybridge, New Malden; Miss Rose Radakin, to Denton; Miss Ada B. Smith, to Warwickshire; Miss Gertrude Wild, to Birmingham (East Home).

## ENGLISH PRISONS TO-DAY.

BEING THE REPORT OF THE PRISON SYSTEM ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

A book of great interest is "English Prisons To-day," edited, and in large part written, by Mr. Stephen Hobhouse, M.A., and Mr. A. Fenner Brockway, both of whom served long terms of imprisonment during the war.

The Prison System Enquiry Committee was formed at the beginning of 1919, and has pursued its investigations for three years. Its Chairman is Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., and its membership, which is representative of the various schools of political thought, includes the Earl of Sandwich, Lord Henry Bentinck, M.P., the Hon. George Peel, the Hon. Bertrand Russell, Mr. Laurence Housman, the Right Hon. J. R. Clynes, M.P., and Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb, Miss Margery Fry, J.P., and Mr. Cecil Leeson (secretaries to the Howard League for Penal Reform), Dr. Ernest Jones, Rev. W. D. Morrison, LL.D., and Mr. Bernard Shaw. The Report is published to-day by Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co., at 25s.

The Enquiry was an exhaustive one, and the book deals with the question under discussion from many angles—the cruelty of cellular confinement, the dehumanising effect of the silence rule, the mental and moral effects of imprisonment, and it was elicited by the Enquiry that notwithstanding the elaborate precautions against suicide the rate in prison is three times as great as that outside, while the ratio of insanity is ten times as great as that among the ordinary population. In addition to these extreme cases, we are told that the great majority of the prisoners undergo a mental and moral deterioration. "Even a few months of imprisonment appears to be sufficient in many, if not most cases, to produce an effect upon memory, concentration, and the power of will. In the case of the long sentence prisoner, this process of deterioration may lead to premature senility, or a childish weakness of mind which renders him almost incapable of resuming life in any efficient capacity."

We are not of those who think that crime should be unpunished, or that the State should deal weakly with offences against the law and the community, but it is certain that there should be a classification of offenders, and that their degree of responsibility should be estimated by experienced physicians, alienists and psychologists. The effect of such discrimination would, we believe, be to eliminate from our prisons a large number of mental defectives and weak-minded persons to be dealt with otherwise than under the penal code. It is further unquestionable that, when the State, for good and sufficient reasons, deprives a person of liberty, it is incumbent upon it to see that the conditions under which he lives are hygienic, and that his mental as well as his physical welfare receives due consideration.

#### OFFICIAL INFORMATION DECLINED.

The Chairman of the Enquiry Committee approached the Home Office in the early stages of

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