

TERRITORIAL ARMY NURSING SERVICE.

Miss C. F. Bayly, A.R.R.C., Matron, 2nd Northern General Hospital, resigns her appointment (June 20th); Miss Musson, R.R.C., Principal Matron, 1st Southern General Hospital, resigns her appointment, and is granted permission to retain her rank and wear the prescribed uniform (June 30th); Miss M. E. Manfield A.R.R.C., Matron, 2nd Eastern General Hospital, resigns her appointment (July 7th); Miss E. M. Newton, R.R.C., Matron, 1st Eastern General Hospital, resigns her appointment (July 7th); Miss J. R. Nicol, A.R.R.C., Matron, 1st Scottish General Hospital, resigns her appointment (July 7th); Miss G. Bulman, R.R.C., to be Matron, 2nd Northern General Hospital (June 20th), vice Miss C. Bayly, resigned; Miss M. E. Williamson to be Matron, 4th Scottish General Hospital (June 21st), vice Miss I. Calder, resigned; Miss C. E. Bailey, to be Principal Matron, 1st Southern General Hospital (July 1st), in succession to Miss Musson, R.R.C., resigned.

RESIGNATION.

In a report to the West Bromwich Guardians the House Committee expressed their regret at having received the resignation of Miss Mold, who has held the office of Superintendent Nurse for the last 27 years, the resignation to take effect from September 30th next. The Committee recommended the Board to forward to Miss Mold an expression of their appreciation of her services, and to pay her a gratuity of £100 in recognition of the additional work she had had to do during the illness and absence from duty of the Medical Superintendent. In moving the adoption of the report, Mr. Jackson said that in the person of Miss Mold the Guardians were losing a very valuable Superintendent Nurse.—Mr. Haynes seconded the resolution and Mr. Wells, in supporting it, remarked that Miss Mold had been a good nurse and a good manager, and there was a great deal of difference in the Infirmary now and what it used to be. Miss Mold had discharged her duties most faithfully, and he thought she deserved the £100 they proposed to vote to her.

Miss C. Twist, Assistant Superintendent Nurse, has been appointed *pro tem* to perform the matron's duties.

At the same meeting the appointment of a Sister-Tutor at a salary of £120 per annum with emoluments was recommended.

A PROFESSIONAL DUTY.

One of the first duties of trained nurses is to endeavour to preserve life, and, in the present disastrous condition which has arisen of a serious outbreak of smallpox, originating in Gloucester, and which, the Ministry of Health state, was not dealt with as soon as it might have been, because of the refusal of the local Medical Officer of Health to admit the presence of smallpox on a large scale in the city. Early in May cases of smallpox occurring at places so far distant as Liverpool and Abertillery were traced to infection received in Gloucester.

It is impossible now to foresee where infection may end, and all possible means should be taken to avert it. It is certain that there is a distinct risk of an outbreak of a serious character, and trained nurses, especially district nurses, and school nurses, should do their utmost to secure the vaccination of infants and the re-vaccination of adults, stated by the Ministry of Health to be "the only practical remedy now that the infection has been introduced."

REGISTERED NURSES' PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL.

Copies of the Resolution unanimously adopted at the Meeting of above Council on June 23rd, condemning the conduct of women Members of Parliament in absenting themselves when Nursing questions were to be debated in Parliament have been forwarded to Viscountess Astor, M.P., Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., and Mrs. Philipson, M.P. The Resolution reminded them that trained nurses were taxed to pay their salaries, and had therefore a right to expect consideration of legislation touching their professional and economic status, and the protection of the public from exploitation by ignorant untrained women. Councillor Kent, the President of the R.N.P.C., also wrote personal letters to the three absentees during Dr. Chapple's disastrous attack upon our work and status in the House on June 13th. Personally, we have not forgotten the fact that after voting on the Army Estimates in 1922, Viscountess Astor rose from her seat and deliberately walked out of the House when Sir Alfred Mond, then Minister of Health, thrust through Parliament Rule 9a, put forward by the General Nursing Council, to make it possible to pack the forthcoming election with members of the College of Nursing, Ltd. Lady Astor was an American citizen during the Tammany Hall administration in New York, a caucus notorious for jobbery throughout the world, and we could have hoped she would have opposed such tactics when a Member of the British House of Commons. The truth is laywomen know nothing of nursing ethics or professional standards. They prefer the V.A.D. type of nurse which, as Lady Astor once said, "she had to boss during the war." But those who pay the piper call the tune, and these three M.P.s, known in the House as Sobriety, Propriety, and Variety, must study Nursing questions if we are to help pay their salaries and add to their great wealth, for which poorly paid women workers have to make many sacrifices. We fear wealthy women M.P.s are not going to be of any real benefit to the National Health, to judge by their past record. Mrs. Philipson has her reputation to make. Anyway, the Registered Nurses Parliamentary Council will watch their future policy. In this connection it is high time women were elected to Parliament on their own merits, and not as wives of former Members. The limit of this folly has been reached.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

How happy is he born and taught
That serveth not another's will,
Whose armour is his honest thought,
And simple truth his utmost skill!

This man is freed from servile bands
Of hope to rise or fear to fall;
Lord of himself, though not of lands,
And having nothing, yet hath all.

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