

## COMPLIMENTARY DINNER TO MAJOR R. W. BARNETT, M.P.

We have pleasure in announcing that the Complimentary Dinner to Major R. W. Barnett, M.P., will be held in the St. James's Room at the Hotel Metropole, Northumberland Avenue, London, on Thursday, February 5th, at 7.45 p.m.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will preside, and, in the name of the constituent Nurses' Organisations forming the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, will present Major Barnett with a copy of "The Nurses' Register," which, there is little doubt, would not now be in existence had he not most generously given the Bill, drafted by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, the first place in the ballot drawn by him as a private member in the House of Commons.

State Registrationists will remember that Major Barnett introduced the Bill, moved its second reading on March 28th, 1919, and, after a strenuous fight with the wrecking protagonists of the College of Nursing, Ltd., on the Report stage in the House, had the satisfaction of seeing the Government of the day—thanks to Dr. Addison, then Minister of Health—practically take over the Bill, and, as a Government Measure, have it passed into Law on December 23rd, 1919.

We feel sure the "State Register" Dinner will be a great success, and that many earnest pioneers of the movement for State controlled and organised education of Trained Nurses, will make every effort to be present on this historic occasion, together with members of the younger generation of Registered Nurses, who have availed themselves, to upwards of 40,000, of the legal status won for them by years of toil and self-sacrifice by their older colleagues, and to prove to Major Barnett their sincere appreciation of his chivalrous support of their rights and privileges in Parliament, and of his real statesmanship in making it possible to safeguard the right of the public to a safe standard of nursing, prescribed under the Nurses' Registration Acts. The future alone can prove the wisdom of his action, and the debt owed to him by the Nursing Profession and the community.

It is hoped that representatives of the various Parts of the Register—Sick Children's Nurses, Fever Nurses, and Mental Nurses—will speak on the occasion of the Dinner, details of which will be announced in the February issue of this JOURNAL.

Evening dress and Decorations and Badges will be worn.

As the number to be present is limited owing to the size of the room, those desirous of attending should make application for tickets as soon as possible, and in any case before January 22nd, to Miss M. Breay, Hon. Secretary "Register Dinner," 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1.

### THE OPTION OF IMMUNITY.

In future all nurses who join the infectious hospitals service of the Metropolitan Asylums Board are to undergo the Schick test to ascertain their susceptibility to diphtheria. Results tend to show that from 15 to 30 per cent. of the nurses are susceptible to the disease.

Nurses will be given the option of being made immune from the disease, with which they are all likely to be brought into contact in their work.

## NURSING ECHOES.

The Editor desires to convey her thanks through the medium of the JOURNAL for the many expressions of greeting and goodwill which have reached her from its readers, and for invitations to participate in the Christmas festivities, which are so pleasant a feature of the season.

She is also gratified by the letters which have reached her expressing the appreciation and pleasure of the writers in the JOURNAL in its present form, and would remind them that they can best express that appreciation in a practical manner by obtaining more subscribers, and so still further enlarging its sphere of influence.

The appreciation of the King of the good work done by Queen's Nurses was evidenced by His Majesty's permission for the Annual Meeting of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses to be held on December 10th in the Picture Gallery at St. James's Palace, when the Duke of Portland, K.G., Chairman of the Queen's Fund, presided, and reminded those present that they could best express their gratitude for the King's favour by doing their utmost to help the Institute, and by enlisting the generous support of their friends for the highly important and valuable work which the Institute conducted.

A letter was read from the Right Honble. Neville Chamberlain, M.P., Minister of Health, expressing the Minister's appreciation of the value of the work done by the Institute; and the hope that there would be a generous response to the appeals for financial support of the important work undertaken by it.

Mrs. Bruce Richmond, one of the Hon. Secretaries of the Institute, said that by the next annual meeting she hoped to be able to report that a pension scheme had been established for nurses who had spent long years in the Institute's service. She also drew attention to the present position of maternal mortality. According to a report of the Ministry of Health, issued last spring, the average maternal mortality in England and Wales was 3.9 per 1,000. The mortality among the cases attended by the Institute's nurses had hardly varied since 1902 from 1.8 per 1,000, and last year it was 1.4 per 1,000. She suggested that to reduce the maternal death-rate, statistics in far greater detail than at present should be available, and insisted that public opinion should be organised to demand that the death of a mother should be considered a calamity not only to be deplored, but to be explained.

In reply to a telegram of loyal and heartfelt congratulations sent to Queen Alexandra on her eightieth birthday, on behalf of the Council and Committees of the Institute, the Queen's Nurses, and affiliated Associations, Sir Harold Boulton, Chairman of the Council, received the following telegram from Her Majesty:—

"My grateful thanks to you, and through you to all, for their kind thoughts for me to-day.—ALEXANDRA."

The Prince of Wales sent the following telegram to the Chairman of the Royal National Hospital for Con-

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