

## NURSING ECHOES.

The presentation of certificates by Her Royal Highness Princess Arthur of Connaught to the students completing the International Courses held at Bedford College for Women (University of London) in conjunction with the College of Nursing, Ltd., is taking place as we go to press. The opening remarks will be made by the Honble. Sir Arthur Stanley, Member of the Board of Governors, and Sir Claude Hill, Director General, League of Red Cross Societies, and an address will be given by Sir George Newman, K.C.B., M.D., Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health.

The students will be introduced to Her Royal Highness by Miss Margaret J. Tuke, Principal of Bedford College, and after the Presentation of Certificates by the Princess, Baroness Mannerheim, Chairman of the Nursing Advisory Board of the League of Red Cross Societies, will address the students. The proceedings will conclude with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Miss Dora Hübler (Germany) and Miss Tsacova (Bulgaria).

On the conclusion of the proceedings there will be a Garden Party in the College grounds when the Band of H.M. Welsh Guards will be in attendance.

The following are the students who have attended the Courses during the Session 1925-1926.

*Course in Public Health Nursing:* Lonna Fellner and Constanze Rabitsch, Austria; Margaret Tsacova, Bulgaria; Marta Sindlerova, Czecho-Slovakia; Dora Hübler, Germany; Hermoine Whitehead and Eleanor Brinton, Great Britain; Kristin Thoroddsen, Iceland; Krishnaibai Kanetkar, India; Alice Sher, Latvia; Marja Mochnacka, Poland; Winifred Knox, S. Africa; Hilda Fletcher, U.S.A.

*Course for Nurse Administrators and Teachers in Schools of Nursing:* Maj-Lis Edgren, Finland; Gladys Bowes, Great Britain; Marie Wacker, Hungary.

We heartily congratulate the successful students, and wish them happiness in the work before them.

We are glad to note that at the third meeting of the General Council of the League of Red Cross Societies in Paris, a Resolution was adopted:

That National Red Cross Societies should enrol in a Nursing Reserve all qualified nurses in the country who would be in a position to respond to the call of their country in time of war, disaster or epidemic.

They also recommended to the National Red Cross Societies the standardisation of nurses to be enrolled or trained by the Red Cross Society in the future, while recognising the services rendered to their countries in the past by nurses who had received less training, and proposed that they should still hold the privilege of Red Cross Nurse, but recommended:

That from now onwards all new groups trained by Red Cross Societies in short courses for emergency purposes should be designated "Voluntary Aid Detachments," or by a similar term, and should serve *under* the enrolled Red Cross Nurses.

It was further agreed that:

In order that the Government and the public of each country may be assured that the National Red Cross Society will provide adequate and efficient nursing service, when called upon, and in order to facilitate international co-operation during war or disaster, that National Red Cross Societies should hereafter designate as Red Cross Nurses

only those who have graduated from Schools of Nursing (Schools accepting women of higher education) and giving not less than two years of consecutive and full-time training, *the ideal being a three years' course*, in connection with a hospital providing medical surgical and special services.

At the head of the Red Cross Nursing Service in each country should be a highly trained and experienced nurse as Director and Superintendent as is the case in America and Denmark. Only so, can efficiency be secured.

As a result of the recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Medical branches of the fighting services the establishment of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service is to be increased by the addition of one head sister, one superintending sister, and four nursing sisters. The head sister will be employed in the Royal Naval Hospital, Malta, the superintending sister in Shotley Sick Quarters, and the four nursing sisters will provide a margin for reliefs. The age for retirement on pension will be as follows: Nursing sister, 50; superintending sister, 52; and head sister, 55.

It is always welcome news to hear of nurses receiving an increase in their pay, and all those interested in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service will be pleased to know that a new warrant for pay and retired pay has been published. We hope at an early date to have for publication further interesting particulars regarding this Service.

Revised scales of pay and retired pay for Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and Queen Alexandra's Military Families' Nursing Service are announced by the War Office: the new rates are as follow: Matron-in-chief, £450, with annual increment of £15 to £495; principal matron, £275, with annual increment of £12 to £323; matron, £130, with annual increment of £10 to £200; sister, Q.A.I.M.N.S., and sister-in-charge Q.A.M.F.N.S., £75, with biennial increment of £5 to £110; staff nurse, £65, with annual increment of £2 10s. to £70. The present maximum, yearly rates are: Matron-in-chief, £470; principal matron, £296; Matrons, £185; sisters and sisters-in-charge, £85; staff nurses, £65.

A staff nurse of Q.A.I.M.N.S. or Q.A.M.F.N.S. will be eligible for promotion to the rank of sister or sister-in-charge after completing not less than three years' efficient service, provided that she is fully qualified in the opinion of the Army Council to hold the higher rank.

The retired pay of sisters and sisters-in-charge, which at present includes no rank element, will include a rank element of £2 for each year of service, after twelve years in the rank, with a maximum rank element of £30; and the maximum rate of retired pay for the rank of sister or sister-in-charge will be increased from £75 to £105 a year. Members of both nursing services may be permitted to retire on completion of ten years' service with a gratuity of £250, and on completion of fifteen years' service with a gratuity of £400.

Miss Beatrice Cutler, the ex-Assistant Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, paid a flying visit to Johannesburg Hospital, says the *South African Nursing Record*,

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