

DOMINION HEADQUARTERS IN LONDON.

While the Imperial Conference was in progress it occurred to us that it might prove interesting to some of our Canadian, Australian and South African colleagues to read some short description of the Dominions Headquarters in London.

Through the kindness of Dr. Morris, a former Chairman of the Australian Branch of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and at present Chief Medical Officer at Australia House, we were able to arrange to go over Australia House under the guidance of Mr. Davidson, its architect and controller, who knows every inch of the magnificent building, has watched its growth from its first beginnings, and was connected with it previous to the time when it was formally opened by the King in 1918.

The High Commissioner for Australia has a magnificent suite of offices here and, with the exception of Queensland and Western Australia, all the States in Australia have their English centre of administration in the building. Australia House, which is situated in the historic Strand, is built in the form of a huge triangle, ten stories high and with lifts at each point of the triangle. Every floor has its massive doors and panelling of some variety of Australian wood, and the fine and most beautiful marbles of the floors and staircases, of the great pillars in the library and of the pillars and floors of the vestibules all came from different parts of Australia. We specially admired the library often used for the receptions and supplied with all the Australian newspapers. Its black bean wood panelling and marble pillars give a very stately effect: its handsome carpet was made in Australia, weighs a ton and half, and requires twenty-four men to lift it.

The many spacious offices with their scores of typewriters are beautifully light and airy and, everywhere, one is struck by the provisions made for the health and comfort of the Staff. It was pointed out that the fact that many London houses have no bathrooms is a matter of small significance to the workers in Australia House. We were shown the bathrooms of the women workers, and these are very up-to-date with their plunge and shower baths and also a nice couch for rest. In the restaurant some 300 people have meals at cost price, and this must indeed be a great boon, especially when the colder weather comes and no one is inclined to go out and wrestle with the difficulties of securing a place in an ordinary restaurant. The kitchens are most scrupulously clean, and the large joints coming out of the ovens, just as we passed, were sufficiently tempting to make us wish that we had not already lunched.

The Exhibition Hall is very fascinating with its Australian products of all kinds, its samples of wood and stone, its varieties of birds and its pictures of scenes in the life of the settler in Australia. The strong rooms, below the ground floor, are calculated to defy the united efforts of a hundred burglars, and we are told that the wonderful cinema, depicting all phases of life in Australia, is never without a large audience during the afternoon, where it goes on consecutively for several hours.

We advise all who have any interest whatever in the great island continent to make a point of visiting Australia House. We have only been able to touch on but one or two of the features which will please them.

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

The Duke and Duchess of York will leave this country on January 6th for their visit to Australia, proceeding via the Panama Canal *en route* for Sydney, which they plan to reach on March 26th of next year.

Dame Mary Cook organised the successful Ball at Australia House on October 28th in aid of the War Memorial to Nurses of the British Empire.

NURSES' ORGANIZATIONS.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The Annual Meeting of the Grand Council of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain will be held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 1, on Saturday, November 13th, at 3 p.m. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, in the Chair.

There is important business to be transacted, and it is hoped that Presidents of Affiliated Societies and their Delegates will make a special effort to be present.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

A well-attended meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland was held at the Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W., on Saturday, October 16th, at 4.45 p.m.

The Business Meeting was preceded by a most interesting Lecture on "The Origin and Growth of the British Empire," given by Major R. Rigg, O.B.E., with that veteran of the Nursing Profession, Mrs. Strong, in the chair, and to which the Matrons' Council Members had been invited by the Royal British Nurses' Association.

The President, Miss Helen Pearse, took the chair at 4.45 p.m. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the Secretary read an acknowledgment received of the letter of congratulation sent to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick on the formation of the British College of Nurses.

The Secretary reported the recommendations of the Subcommittee formed to decide which Resolutions should be adopted from the National Council of Women's Preliminary Agenda; and also read those which were afterwards placed upon the Permanent Agenda for their Conference. The President remarked that it was very gratifying to note that, with one exception, those selected by the Matrons' Council had found a high place in the Agenda.

Miss Elma Smith reported the result of a meeting held on June 29th, *re* the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Bill, at which she acted as the Official Delegate. Miss Smith said it was a most interesting meeting and very well supported, several members of the Matrons' Council had attended.

Miss Carson Rae gave a report upon the results of the Tea Stall organised by the Council for the Bazaar in aid of the National and International Councils of Nurses; it was a very gratifying statement and received much approval from the members present, and a vote of thanks was passed to various members who had done much to make the Stall such a success.

Letters from various societies were read, and considered. A Resolution was brought forward by Miss G. Lord, but after discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

An invitation for the next meeting to be held at the Prince of Wales' Hospital, Tottenham, was received and considered; it was agreed to accept with much pleasure for the Spring Meeting.

KATHLEEN A. SMITH,
Hon. Secretary.

WEST MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL NURSES' LEAGUE, WINTER RE-UNION.

The Matron of the West Middlesex Hospital, Isleworth, cordially invites all past nurses to the Winter Re-union to be held on Saturday, November 27th. Tea 3 to 5 p.m. Dinner, 7 p.m. It is hoped that all past nurses will make an effort to attend.

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