

Miss M. E. Sparshott, Matron, Royal Infirmary, Manchester.

Supplementary Part, Sick Children's Nurses.—Miss A. M. Bushby, Cert., East London Hospital for Children, late Matron Queen's Hospital for Children. Miss Edith Cockeram, Matron, Children's Hospital, Birmingham.

Supplementary Part Mental Nurses.—Miss Jean Brown, Claybury Mental Hospital, Miss M. G. Lakeman, Matron, Colney Hatch Mental Hospital, Miss E. L. Macaulay, Matron, Kent County Mental Hospital, Mr. E. R. Blackman, Cert., M.P.A. Mr. A. J. Cusse, Cert., M.P.A. Mr. R. Donaldson, Cert., M.P.A. Mr. R. Gardner, Cert., M.P.A.

NURSING ECHOES.

At a recent meeting of the executive committee of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, at 58, Victoria Street, when Sir Warren Crooke-Lawless presided, it was reported that the scheme for opening gardens in England and Wales for the benefit of the National Memorial to Queen Alexandra had raised the sum of nearly £8,000, and a special vote of appreciation was accorded to Lady Georgiana Mure, Mrs. Frank Stobart, and the other members of the Women's National Memorial Committee for organising the scheme so successfully. It is hoped to make it a permanent one for the benefit of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses and the affiliated nursing associations.

There was a large meeting and an interested audience at the Mansion House, on October 13th, at which the Lord Mayor presided, in support of the Central Council for District Nursing in London. Sir Kingsley Wood, in moving a resolution urging the citizens of London to support the Fund, said that the Council could give valuable help in trying to solve one of the most difficult health problems of the day, namely, the unduly high maternity mortality rate.

Miss Sybil Thorndike said that those who had to work for their living knew how large a part luck played, in their lives. It behoved all those who had succeeded and were living comfortably, to hold themselves responsible in their pockets for those who had not had the same luck.

Other speakers were Bishop Russell Wakefield and Sir William Collins. Another £10,000 per annum is stated by the Lord Mayor to be needed as additional revenue if the work of the Fund is to be really adequate.

In our last issue we notified the appointment of Miss Margaret H. Keenan, C.B.E., R.R.C., who was trained and certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, during the Matronship of the late Miss Isla Stewart as the first Head Sister-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service.

In announcing the addition by the Admiralty of this position to the establishment of Queen Alexandra Royal Naval Nursing Service, *The Times* says:—

"It was one of the contrasts in the Nursing Services of the British Forces during the war that in the Navy there was not, as in others, a Matron-in-Chief. Instead, there were three Head Sisters, at the hospitals at Chatham, Haslar, and Plymouth respectively. The post of Head Sister-in-Chief has now been instituted, and the duties attaching to it will be:—To perform Head Sister's duties at the R.N. Hospital, Chatham;

to interview candidates for the Nursing Service at the Medical Department of the Admiralty; to make periodical inspections of nursing arrangements at home, and to serve as the Nursing Service member of the Queen Alexandra's R.N. Nursing Service Consultative Board. Appointment will be from among the Head Sisters and the retiring age will be 55, as for a Head Sister. The Head Sister-in-Chief will receive an allowance of £50 a year, in addition to her scale of pay as a Head Sister, and her retired pay will be calculated as for a Head Sister, with an addition for the rank of Head Sister-in-Chief of £5 for each year's complete service in the higher rank, subject to a maximum addition for rank element of £40.

"Miss Margaret H. Keenan, C.B.E., R.R.C., R.N.S., who has been appointed Head Sister-in-Chief, to date August 1st, 1927, has been Head Sister at Chatham Hospital since May, 1912, and for three years before that was at Plymouth. She was Nursing Sister at the R.N. College, Osborne, from its opening in 1903. The present strength of the Service is fixed in the Navy Estimates for this year at four Head Sisters, seven Superintending Sisters, 63 Sisters, and seven Store Matrons."

It will be remembered by readers of this JOURNAL, that in the year 1900, the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland communicated with the First Lord of the Admiralty (then Mr. Goschen) and the Secretary of State for War (then the Marquess of Lansdowne) and expressed the opinion that the system of nursing the sick and wounded in Naval and Military Hospitals was unsatisfactory and in need of re-organisation. It petitioned these Ministers to receive Deputations from the Council, so that it might explain the views of its members on the reforms, in their opinion necessary in the Nursing Departments of these Services. On behalf of Mr. Goschen, Mr. (now Sir) Austen Chamberlain, then a Civil Lord of the Admiralty, received a Deputation of the Hon. Officers of the Matrons' Council, when the President (the late Miss Isla Stewart) presented a Memorandum.

In April, 1901, a Deputation from the Matrons' Council was received by the Secretary of State for War (Mr. St. John Brodrick) when the President presented a Memorandum embodying the views of the Council on Army Nursing Reform. The most important suggestion was "the need of the formation of a Nursing Department, in affiliation with the Medical Department at the War Office, superintended by a fully trained and experienced administrative Nursing Officer." It was subject for congratulation that this suggestion, as well as the majority of suggestions made by the Matrons' Council was incorporated in the Report presented in September, 1901, by the Committee appointed by Mr. Brodrick to consider the re-organisation of the Army Nursing Service.

The result of the Deputation to the Admiralty, which incorporated much the same suggestions bore no immediate fruit and when, in 1902, new Regulations were issued for the Royal Naval (Queen Alexandra's) Nursing Service no provision was made for the appointment of a Matron (or Head Sister) in-Chief. It is therefore of special interest to record that 27 years later the judgment of the Matrons' Council has been vindicated, and this post so necessary to the efficient

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)