

having a relative or friend to live with them, which is an added attraction.

Members of the Territorial Army Nursing Service have in the past so liberally and sympathetically supported this Fund that its continued support is assured and it is hoped that members of the Service will include a small annual contribution to it when forwarding their enrolment parchments for signature to their Principal Matrons.

Contributions to this Fund are received by the Principal Matrons of the Units, and forwarded to the Honorary Secretary of the Territorial Benevolent Fund, Mrs. Weir, c/o The Matron-in-Chief, T.A.N.S., War Office, Caxton House West, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1.

The obituary notices of the late Viscount Haldane of Cloan, K.T., O.M. have been many, but nowhere have we seen mentioned two things for which trained nurses will remember him with gratitude. As a member of the House of Commons he backed the first Nurses' Registration Bill, introduced into that House in 1904 by Dr. Farquharson of Haughton, and, when Secretary of State for War, he inaugurated the Territorial Force Nursing Service in connection with the formation of the Territorial Force.

How indispensable the T.F.N.S. was when War broke out is now realised. Although designed to staff hospitals to be mobilised in case of invasion, mobilisation at once took place, and the Nursing Staffs—all nurses holding three years' certificates of training—were in their places in the Territorial Hospitals in this country within twenty-four hours, and many subsequently served Overseas. Lord Haldane's great national service in this connection should always be remembered.

The decision of the Metropolitan Asylums Board to accept in the future as a qualification for the position of Ward Sister in the Children's Service, nurses who are registered in the Supplementary part of the State Register of Nurses for Sick Children's Nurses without training in the nursing of adults, is disapproved by those nurses who recognise that, for such service, training should be complete. By this retrograde step the Board lowers the status of such officers in the Service to that of thirty years ago.

Nor is it fair on those promoted, who will always, presumably, be limited to work in the Board's Children's Hospitals.

We hope that wiser counsels may prevail.

The *Tottenham and Edmonton Weekly Herald* recalls that it was in September, 1898, that Miss E. T. Bickerton, R.R.C., F.B.C.N., the Matron of the Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, commenced her association with that institution, and that in a few weeks, therefore, she will have completed 30 years of service there.

The hospital was founded as the Evangelical Protestant Deaconesses' Institution and Training Hospital by the late Dr. Laseron, in 1885, and it was to this relatively small institution that Miss Bickerton came, as a probationer Sister, just on 30 years ago.

Her arrival at Tottenham synchronised with one of the not infrequent periods of financial stringency;

and it could hardly have been cheering to the probationer to be informed that the hospital might close in a fortnight! Happily, the then Lady Superintendent, Sister Christian Dundas, was of a more sanguine temperament, and predicted that it would grow to become a General Hospital. That this proved to be correct was largely due to the late Mr. Joshua Pedley, who kept 15 beds going during the darkest days and, with assistance, evolved a scheme which successfully tided the hospital over its days of crisis; and in 1900 Mr. F. W. Drewett took charge as Director, with Mr. Newton as Secretary to the Hospital Council.

In 1902 Miss Bickerton was advanced to the responsible post of Sister-in-charge of the operating theatre, and for some years was destined to work under hardly ideal conditions. In 1907, however, the Drapers' Company generously fitted up a new theatre; and in so doing conferred a very great boon upon the district. When the Great War broke out in 1914 the hospital staff nobly rose to the occasion and immediately placed at the disposal of the military authorities 50 beds, free of charge. In April, 1915, Miss Fox, the then Matron, went to France on active service, and was succeeded by Miss Bickerton.

During the war years her classes and lectures which were very popular locally, were on more than one occasion punctuated by the proximity of falling bombs from raiding Gothas. Matron, Sisters and Nurses in this time of stress also found time to cultivate the hospital ground, and in one season to plant sufficient seed potatoes to yield one and half tons.

A terrible accident, from an act of gross carelessness resulted in the death of a nurse—Miss Torrance—in the Cathlin Braes district of Glasgow on July 7th, for which John Daly, a Territorial, has now been sentenced in the Sheriff's Court to three months' imprisonment.

It appears that the nurse—Miss Torrance—was walking in a quiet lane with a friend when a bullet passed the head of a young man walking behind her, grazed the skirt of a young woman, and then ricocheted from the road, with the shocking result that Miss Torrance was killed. Daly, when challenged by the police, admitted firing the shot, and said that when firing at a rifle range a cartridge jammed in his rifle, so he took it out and put it in his pocket.

On his way home by train he thought he had better get rid of it, so he fired it from the window of the carriage, the direction being in the line of the roadway.

The laudable custom of organising a Dinner in connection with Congresses and Conventions of Nurses of any magnitude was observed in connection with the twenty-fifth Convention of the California State Nurses' Association at Riverside recently, and this pleasant function was thus charmingly described in *The Pacific Coast Journal of Nursing*:—"The annual dinner on Friday evening was the crowning event of the Convention. Words fail when trying to describe the beauty and atmosphere that lent themselves to the delight of this occasion. The setting in the patio of the Inn, the Spanish atmosphere, blue sky above, palms, red and yellow flowers, the soft dripping of the water in the fountain; later, as the early twilight came, candle-

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