

## NURSING ECHOES.

The Editor and Assistant Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING offer thanks for so many lovely cards, gifts and kind greetings—literally from all over the world. The Homeland first, then Canada, North and South America, China, Japan, India, South Africa, New Zealand, France, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, Scandinavia, Finland, Bulgaria, Rumania, Italy, Egypt, Azores and other islands of the sea. A lovely lot of kind letters—most welcome and encouraging. The JOURNAL has carried our kindest greeting to the writers of all these valued letters, and may all our readers have a very happy and successful 1928.

Through the same medium we wish also to express our sincere thanks for all the attractive invitations we have received to parties in hospitals and other institutions at this season. We should like to have been at them all, but unfortunately neither time nor space would permit. We hear on all sides that never were wards gayer, or did entertainments reach a higher standard of excellence. Everyone combined to give those patients who were well enough to enjoy them, the best of good times.

Registered Nurses will wish to convey through this Journal their cordial good wishes to Major Sir Richard Barnett, M.P., their champion in the House of Commons, for happiness in the New Year, and complete recovery from his recent illness, which necessitated his cancelling his engagements. Such good friends are scarce.

When projecting the organisation of a Nursing Profession through Act of Parliament we created the title of General Nursing Council for the Governing Body, which was incorporated in the Registration Acts. It is highly gratifying to know that the honourable status of the Chairman of the General Nursing Council has been recognised, and that amongst the Birthday Honours announced on January 2nd, Miss Ellen Mary Musson, R.R.C., who occupies the honourable position of Chairman of the G.N.C., has been awarded the C.B.E. (Civil Division) of the Order of the British Empire.

In offering the congratulations of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING to Miss Musson, upon the recognition of her honourable office, we do so with greater satisfaction in that she, unlike so many of her colleagues on the General Nursing Council, never signed any of the numerous anti-registration manifestoes, which cost their colleagues, the promoters of the movement, thirty years of unceasing toil, and thousands of pounds in its attainment.

We are also pleased to note that other nurses have been honoured.

Miss Mary Mitchell Thorburn, R.R.C., Matron of the London County Mental Hospital, Horton, receives the O.B.E., and Miss Ada Davies, Lady Superintendent, Plaistow Maternity Hospital, and Miss Jane Motterhead, Senior Assistant-Matron, Cheshire County Mental Hospital, Macclesfield, and Mrs. Florence Elizabeth

Pearse, Inspector of Midwives and Superintendent of Health Visitors, Oxford, have received the M.B.E.

On page 25 we also record the recognition in the Honours List of two other well-known members of our profession, Miss Edris Griffin, S.R.N., and Miss A. S. Graham, who receive the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal for Public Services in India. Miss Griffin was at one time Hon. Secretary of the Trained Nurses' Association of India, and is at present Hon. Secretary for the Health Visitors' League. Both ladies are enthusiastic workers in connection with Lady Reading's Health School at Delhi.

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses held at 58, Victoria Street, S.W., when Sir Warren Crooke-Lawless presided, it was announced that through the scheme arranged by the National Memorial to Queen Alexandra, under which famous gardens in England and Wales were opened to the public, the sum of £8,191 had been raised. The King had been greatly interested in the scheme, and had suggested that it should be made permanent; their Majesties had graciously consented to open the Sandringham gardens again. It was hoped in this way to raise a considerable sum of money for the Institute and the county and local nursing associations affiliated to it, and so help to meet the increased expenditure which was necessary if district nurses were to be available for all who required their services.

The demand for Queen's Nurses showed a continual growth, and since the last meeting of the Executive Committee eight nursing associations had been affiliated and 95 more Queen's Nurses enrolled. In addition to this steady expansion there was always the need for regular supervision of the existing work to see that it was kept up to the required standard.

The Pensions Scheme for hospital officers inaugurated by King Edward's Hospital Fund for London came into operation on January 1st under the title of "Federated Superannuation Scheme for Nurses and Hospital Officers (Contributory)." Much prominence has been given to Pensions for Nurses while this scheme was under consideration, but it is really a scheme to pension all hospital officials from the Secretariat to the porters. It has been most difficult for organised nurses to get their views placed before the Committee of Management of the King's Fund, but we are of opinion that it is not within the province of the charitable public to pension hospital officials, who should be encouraged to pay into pension funds themselves.

Further, the scheme is calculated to restrict work for private nurses outside hospitals, for employers will not pay an additional 10 per cent. to insure their nurses, when their fees are already afforded with difficulty.

A Carnival Dance, organised by Mrs. Northwood, whose success in arranging such functions is well-known in the Nursing World, will be held at the Marylebone Hall, Marylebone Road, N.W.1, on Wednesday, January 18th, in support of the Private Nurses' Aid Society.

Prizes for the most original fancy dress will be awarded, and presented by Miss Alice Cattell, S.R.N. Dancing

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