

NURSING ECHOES.

Miss F. M. Hodgins, C.B.E., R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, had the honour of being received by Her Majesty the Queen, at Buckingham Palace, upon relinquishing this appointment, which she has held for five years, and which terminated on March 31st. Miss Hodgins will be regretted not only by members of the Service which she has directed with conspicuous success, but by her colleagues holding civil appointments, with whom her relations have always been characterised by courtesy and consideration, and who will wish her a very happy future. We cordially wish a successful term of office to Miss R. Osborne, R.R.C., Principal Matron, who now succeeds Miss Hodgins in the honourable and important position of Matron-in-Chief.

Miss Osborne was trained at the Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, and the Bristol Royal Infirmary, and is a certified Midwife. She was appointed to Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service as Sister in 1903, and served in South Africa from 1904 to 1909, after which she was transferred successively to the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, and the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich.

In 1911 she was promoted to be Matron of the Military Hospital, York, and, on mobilisation in 1914, was appointed Matron of No. 9 General Hospital, serving in France and Egypt and in Malta, where she opened the Floriana General Hospital in 1916, and was appointed Principal Matron in Malta in 1917. She was transferred the same year to Salonica as Acting Principal Matron serving with the R.S.F., and later with the Army of the Black Sea till July, 1920; subsequently she was Matron of the Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, and the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, London, until March, 1924, when she was transferred, as Principal Matron at the War Office, from which post she is now promoted to Matron-in-Chief. Miss Osborne was five times mentioned in despatches, was awarded the Royal Red Cross in January, 1917, and the C.B.E. (Commander of the British Empire) in June, 1918. She is an Hon. Serving Sister of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and has received the "Medaille d'honneur

des Epidemies de la Marine" (a French Decoration) in gold.

Mrs. Northwood informs us that the dance she recently arranged at the Marylebone Hall, in support of the Private Nurses' Aid Society, was a great success, and that a profit of £37 9s. was made. Dr. Oram and Dr. Collingwood judged the costumes for prizes, and everyone present thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. The Private Nurses' Aid Society aims at helping the older nurses in private work. As we all know this special branch of work is very strenuous, and the younger women may be preferred for up-to-date surgical cases, technique is for ever on the march. Mrs. Northwood and Miss Cattell are warm hearted friends to those of their colleagues who need help by the way.

It will be remembered that the Brownlow Hill Infirmary, Liverpool, of historic interest as the scene of the pioneer work of Miss Agnes Elizabeth Jones for Workhouse Nursing Reform, has recently been closed. The beautiful memorial to Miss Jones placed in the Infirmary, a marble figure depicting the Angel of the Resurrection, with the inscription: "She hath done what she could," has appropriately been removed to the Walton Institution, and on Sunday, March 11th, the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Miss Margaret Beavan, attended in State the service in the Institution Chapel, and unveiled the Memorial, saying, "This day we are reminded of the noble work and self-sacrifice of Agnes Elizabeth Jones, one of God's children, who dedicated her life to His service, and died in the performance of these services to the sick which



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Matron-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing
Service, 1923-1928.

this monument commemorates."

The address at the service which preceded the ceremony was given by the Venerable Archdeacon Howson, who said they were paying tribute to one of Liverpool's heroines, and a pioneer in the Nursing Profession. When she came to Liverpool in 1865 the conditions at that time were terrible. The nursing, if such it could be called, was done by the pauper inmates, sometimes thieves or drunkards, and always ignorant, but they were left to carry out the doctor's orders. She substituted for these ignorant women a system of trained professional nurses, the first of its kind in the country.

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