

Competitive Exhibitions of Photographs, Paintings, Sketches, Needlework, etc., will be held as usual on the day of the Annual Meeting. Prizes have been placed at the disposal of the Judges, and awards will be made in the different Classes should entries be sufficient. The exhibits on these occasions are of much interest, and attain a standard of unusual excellence.

Last month we reported an alarming fire at the Tooting Bec Mental Hospital when the nurses played their part with the utmost courage in the removal of the patients in the burning building to safety. Recently a similar fire has taken place at Murray's Royal Asylum, Perth, and there also the nurses equally showed presence of mind and effective control of the situation. When smoke was seen issuing from the building they quietly mustered the patients and removed them to another part of the hospital, some distance from the outbreak. Then with the house surgeon, Dr. W. D. Chambers, they worked to such purpose that when the fire engines arrived in half an hour's time they had subdued the fire, and had also plunged into the burning building and rescued six convalescent patients.

No doubt they only did their duty, as they would be the first to admit, but it required great courage, nevertheless, and was a practical demonstration that trained and disciplined faithful response to the call of duty is one of the finest things in the world.

Presiding at the annual meeting of the Stirlingshire Branch of the British Red Cross Society, at Stirling, Lady Stirling, of Glorat, Milton of Campsie, said that the Red Cross was a Nursing Reserve to provide Nurses who could be called up in case of war, and while the nations of the world remained prepared for war she thought it was our duty to keep our Nursing Reserve also prepared in order that should war come some of the horrors of war might be mitigated. She hoped also that the Red Cross would more and more act as a reserve for young women going on to get their full training as nurses and entering woman's noblest profession. We thoroughly agree with this opinion. The American Red Cross and the Danish Red Cross Societies demand that the nurses attached shall be thoroughly trained nurses, a standard which it is to be hoped may be adopted in Great Britain at an early date. The V.A.D. standard is entirely out-of-date.

Miss M. E. Misner, R.R.C., F.B.C.N., contributes to the April *Canadian Nurse* a very interesting article on "Health Work in the County of Warwickshire." She writes:—"The thought of that very pleasant and delightful week in one of the best settings that England can produce will live with me as long as my memory lasts. For a Canadian to step off the train on the 26th day of March and find herself in the heart of spring, to walk through the lanes leading from the station to the hotel and see pear trees in bloom, crocuses peeping and daffodils blowing, and hear the spring birds singing! It was joy! And this was Shakespeare's country, and the old, old, shire town of Warwick, where the hospital, the great castle, and most of the houses date back to Elizabeth's time and beyond."

"The History of the Army Ordnance Services," just published by the Medici Society, by Major-General

A. Forbes, C.B., C.M.G.—who spent eight years on the task, and died just as he finished its production—is a book which all interested in the development of army organisation from the days of the English archers should read. Every nurse knows the chaos and red tape prevailing in regard to supplies in the Crimean War, and how these conditions were broken down, thanks to the graphic pen of Sir William Howard Russell, the War Correspondent of the *Times*, who made public the conditions of our hospitals, and the determination of Florence Nightingale that no military regulation should stand between the sick and wounded and the shirts and other comforts they so sorely needed, but which were under lock awaiting the permission of a Board of Officers in a fortnight's time for the stores to be opened. Locks and keys meant nothing to Miss Nightingale, who had the stores broken open, and took possession of such contents as she required for her patients.

Skipper T. Quirk of Fleetwood recently reported that while fishing near St. Kilda's in the Outer Hebrides a nurse approached him in a boat and asked him to make public the straits to which the islanders were reduced through lack of food.

He gave her all his stock of potatoes and vegetables, and as many other provisions as he could spare. When the trawler returned, carrying provisions, all the inhabitants, carrying lanterns, gathered on the shore. First there was a scramble for letters, and then the cooking of food began.

It is stated that all the 32 islanders except two old men who have lived there all their lives wish to leave the island.

The Annual Report of the Visiting Nurses' Association of Chicago, of which Miss Edna Foley is Superintendent, is one to which we always look forward, and the Report of Mrs. Goodspeed, Chairman of the Nurses' Committee for 1929, so graphically describes the life of a District Nurse that we quote the following paragraph.

"If you can remember back through each of the 365 days that made the year 1929, you will remember that while many were just conventional days and possessed no outstanding features, a more than usual number were extreme, from the zero days of January and November, the ice of February and the more recent snow of December, to the torrid and stifling days of June, the wilting days of July and the breathless ones of August. On each of these days the 122 Nurses of the Visiting Nurses' Association were your representatives, going about in every part of Chicago, ministering for you to the sick poor and bringing comfort, relief and friendly cheer to thousands of homes and individuals who otherwise would have none.

"Sliding and blowing over the ice to a remote cabin where nursing help was badly needed, wading to a shut-in family, going about in such a downpour that when shelter was reached, a uniform looked as dark blue as a coat (nothing could keep the rain out), taking flowers, friendly cheer and nursing care to a stifling, airless tenement when the temperature was 90 or more. These Nurses are your emissaries in this city and have in this year made 322,910 visits and cared for 44,714 patients. Of these, 40,160 were new patients."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)