

**NOBLESSE OBLIGE.**

We have received the following letter from Mr. Arthur G. Elliott, House Governor of the London Hospital.

LONDON HOSPITAL,  
WHITECHAPEL, E.1.  
28th August, 1931.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

**NOBLESSE OBLIGE.**

MADAM,—In the August issue of your Journal under the above heading you criticized the London Hospital adversely for allowing its Nurses to play in the *Nursing Times* Lawn Tennis Cup Final immediately after Lord Knutsford had died, and you explained what would have been the conventional procedure under such circumstances.

It was in accordance with Lord Knutsford's wishes that our Nurses played in the Final, nor were these wishes a matter of surmise.

Our late Chairman, on several occasions during his lifetime explained to me what was to be done in the event of his death, and these verbal directions were confirmed explicitly and in detail in a letter which he left to be opened after his death. There was to be no memorial, no memorial service, only a few relatives and intimates were to attend the Funeral, and there was to be as little disturbance of the daily routine as possible.

Such was the affection and esteem in which the late Lord Knutsford was held that many wished that it might have been otherwise. Respect for his memory, however, compelled us to respect his wishes.

Yours faithfully,  
ARTHUR G. ELLIOTT,  
House Governor.

The following initialed paragraph to which Mr. Elliott alludes appeared in our last issue:—

**NOBLESSE OBLIGE.**

The flag flying half-mast over the London Hospital where he died was a symbol of the sorrow felt at the sudden passing of Lord Knutsford, and as the oldest organ of professional nursing opinion in this country we should fail in our duty if we left unexpressed the deep sense of regret, not to say indignation, felt by the profession at large, that the London Hospital team of Nurses should have played in the *Nursing Times* Lawn Tennis Challenge Cup Final against the St. Thomas's team at Marylebone, when their great Chairman was yet unburied. *Noblesse oblige* demanded that the London Hospital nurses should have stood at the salute until the bier of their official Chief had passed by.

We have nothing we wish to retract from this expression of professional opinion.

We purposely did not criticize the authorities of the London Hospital adversely in this matter.

We addressed our colleagues direct, as it was their lack of instinctive veneration for the dead which we condemned.

Surely the ethical standards of the Nursing Profession should have been respected in this connection.

The Treasurer of the London Hospital, Mr. Edward T. Mann, announces that a letter has been received at the Hospital enclosing a donation of £1,000 and urging that a fund in remembrance of the late Chairman should be initiated, and other donations have also been received. The Committee have therefore decided to open a "Lord Knutsford Remembrance Fund," and the Treasurer asks that contributions shall be sent to him at the London Hospital, E.1.

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH.**

Under the new National Government Mr. Neville Chamberlain has been appointed Minister of Health and thus returns to a Department which he has controlled, and with the working of which he is familiar. Since Mr. Chamberlain went out of office, however, administrative changes, resulting from the passing of the Local Government Act (1929) have taken place, a number of Acts of Parliament have been consolidated, the functions of poor law authorities have been transferred to County and County Borough Councils, and these authorities including the Metropolitan Asylums Board have ceased to exist. Many thousands of nurses have been brought under the control of the London County Council, and a greatly extended Nursing Department has been organised at the County Hall, with a Matron-in-Chief at its head.

**THE HOSPITAL WORLD.**

A new wing to be known as St. David's wing has been opened at the Royal Northern Hospital, Holloway Road, N. It has cost £62,000, and has been built by means of a gift of £47,000 from Sir Howell J. Williams, a vice-president, supplemented by gifts from the King's Fund and other sources.

The wing provides for the reception of 65 private patients. In return for fees varying from 5 to 10 guineas, accommodation and nursing are provided, together with the use of a splendidly equipped operating theatre and all dressings and medicines.

Mary Countess of Minto is president of the special appeal for £50,000 for the Marie Curie Hospital for Cancer, and Viscountess Leverhulme is chairman. It is hoped to found a ward in memory of Olive Dent, who died last year.

Lady Howard de Walden (ball president) and Clare Countess Cowley (ball chairman) have announced that the net proceeds of the fourth Queen Charlotte's Birthday ball held at "The Dorchester," on May 28th, amount to £1,067 17s. 11d., which has accordingly been paid to Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital.

As a memorial to Viscountess Ednam, who was killed in the flying accident at Meopham, Kent, extensions costing £20,000 are being made to the North Staffordshire Cripples' Aid Society's Hospital at Hartshill, Staffs, of which she was president.

Good progress is being made with the appeal for £90,000 for the building fund of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, where considerable extensions are contemplated. It has now been open just under two years, and between £70,000 and £80,000 has been collected already. It is gratifying to note that the University and College authorities have now made handsome contributions.

An anonymous gift of £1,000 to endow a bed has been made at Northampton Hospital.

Dundee Royal Infirmary has received a gift of £10,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Alistair Scott, of the Boreen, Dundee, as a tribute to the work carried out by the institution, and in appreciation of the skill, kindness, and sympathy shown to their son Watson, who received treatment at the infirmary after a motor accident in which he received fatal injuries.

It is reported that an outbreak of cholera in certain districts of Iraq is assuming serious proportions, and the mortality in 730 cases is over fifty per cent.

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