

**MISS JESSIE EDITH BORLASE.**

Miss Jessie Edith Borlase who passed away recently at the age of 77 had seen much war service. When the Great War broke out she offered her services but as she was then 60 years of age they were not accepted. She then joined Lady Paget's nursing unit and served in Flanders, Serbia, the Dardanelles and Gallipoli. She was buried in Battersea Cemetery on December 2nd, the coffin being covered with the Union Jack and her many war medals.

**MISS MARGRETTA THORNTON.**

We greatly regret to record the death of Miss Margretta Thornton, F.B.C.N., of Lissoy, Portadown, County Armagh, Ireland, news of which has just reached us. Miss Thornton was trained at Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin, and held the positions of Head Sister at Elpis Private Hospital, Dublin, and of Matron of the Portobello Hospital, and of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin.

Those who attended the Conference of the National Council of Nurses in Dublin in 1913 will not soon forget her courtesy and charm, and later learned of her great courage in the disturbances in Dublin when she fearlessly risked her life in the streets to succour the wounded when bullets were flying. Miss Thornton held the certificate of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics, of which she was an early member.

**THE PARLIAMENTARY MEDICAL COMMITTEE.**

The Parliamentary Medical Committee have elected the following officers for the coming session:—Lieutenant-Colonel Fremantle, chairman; Dr. Salter, vice-chairman; Dr. Morris-Jones, treasurer; and Dr. A. B. Howitt, secretary. There are 15 members of the medical profession in the new House of Commons, and Lord Dawson and Lord Moynihan are also members of the Committee.

**THE BROCKWAY BILL.**

There seems to be a general opinion that the danger regarding the Nursing Profession (Wages and Hours) Bill, introduced by Mr. A. Fenner Brockway into the House of Commons in the recent Parliament, is over now that Mr. Brockway is no longer a Member of Parliament. Nurses will, however, do well to keep a watchful eye upon this question. The sponsors for the Bill are not quiescent but are endeavouring to organise nurses on Trade Union lines, and a Conference has been convened by the Trade Union Council for December 15th, at 2.30, to be held at Transport House, Smith Square, Westminster, S.W., the Headquarters of the T.U.C., to consider "The Organisation of Nurses," and it is evident that there is an active campaign with this object.

**MENTAL HOSPITAL STAFF SALARIES.**

After consultation with the Association of Clerks and Stewards of Mental Hospitals, the Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union, and the British Medical Association, the Mental Hospitals Association have made recommendations for temporary deductions from the salaries of employees in mental hospitals.

The deductions recommended are: From the first £200, 2½ per cent.; from the next £100, 3¾ per cent.; from the next £250, 5 per cent.; from the next £250, 7½ per cent.; from the remainder, 10 per cent.

The Association is of opinion that any deductions from salaries or wages consequent upon these recommendations should in no way affect subsequent pensions, and will accordingly make strong representations to the Health Minister that arrangements should be made so that superannuation allowances granted under the Asylums Officers' Superannuation Act, 1909, shall be in no way affected.

**THE HOSPITAL WORLD.**

Sir William Goschen, Chairman of the London Hospital, presiding at the quarterly Court of Governors, said that in response to a desire very generally expressed a "Lord Knutsford Remembrance Fund" had been opened. The fund would be applied to maintenance and to carry out certain additions and improvements on which the late chairman had set his heart as being essential to the efficiency of the hospital. Lord Knutsford referred to these on more than one occasion at courts of governors. The most important were a new massage and electrical department, the estimated cost of which was £30,000, and towards which there was in hand Sir Mallaby-Deeley's munificent gift of £14,000, and new stores costing approximately £5,000.

It is announced that a nursing home is to be erected in Marylebone Road, adjoining Berkeley Court, by Mr. Martin W. Harvey. There will be accommodation for 600 patients, each in a separate room, with every convenience both for patient and nurse. Each patient will be attended by his own medical man. The whole of the nursing staff, and all matters medical will, however, be under the supervision of the resident medical staff. Is it presumable that there will be no Superintendent of Nursing?

The Central Public Health Committee of the L.C.C. have decided to prohibit the use of collecting boxes for the Council's hospitals and institutions.

The number of Voluntary Aid Detachments continues to increase, and there is now a total of 735 Detachments, consisting of 89 men's and 646 women's Detachments, an increase of six and seven respectively during the year. The total number of Red Cross Detachments is 210, an increase of five over 1929.

The Junior Red Cross continues to make steady progress, and there are now 279 Links with a membership of 17,838 boys and girls.

**Christmas Comforts for Pensioner Patients.**

The Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society have arranged, through the Ministry of Pensions, as in previous years, to provide additional comforts, such as cigarettes, tobacco, etc., for the men actually in Ministry Hospitals on Christmas Day. There are, however, ex-Service pensioners, who will be patients in other hospitals as a result of their war disabilities, and the Joint Council of the two bodies is endeavouring to get in touch with these hospitals, so that no eligible cases in hospital on Christmas Day may fail to receive the same gifts as those in Pensions Hospitals.

**Two Thousand Hospitals Need Books.**

We have pleasure in giving prominence to the following appeal:—2,000 Hospitals Need Books. Unwanted Books crowd your shelves. Send every Book you can spare to the Red Cross and Order of St. John Hospital Library, 48, Queen's Garden s, London, W.2.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF PURE FOOD.**

The purity of food is of the utmost importance, more especially of butter and cream, articles which enter largely into the diet of invalids and children. "Blended" butter, the country of origin of which is unknown, may contain ingredients which are both harmful and dangerous to the consumer. It is well, therefore, to know that the purity of "Cow and Gate" butter, supplied by Cow and Gate Ltd., Contractors to His Majesty's Government, Guildford, Surrey, is guaranteed, and no foreign blend enters into its composition.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)