

VOLUNTARY SERVICE MEDAL.

V.A.D. BAR BROOCH.

It is officially announced that the King has approved of the institution of a medal to recognise long and efficient service of members of voluntary and auxiliary medical, nursing and ambulance organisations.

The medal, which is to be known as "The Voluntary Medical Service Medal," will be issued by the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association and the British Red Cross Society to their members under conditions as to efficiency, etc., equivalent to those laid down for the award of the existing service medal of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and, like that medal, will be permitted to be worn in uniform on the left breast.

To qualify for the new medal, members of the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association and the British Red Cross Society must render 15 years' active efficient service.

The medal will be of silver and the design will consist on the obverse, of a bust symbolic of Florence Nightingale, and on the reverse of the Geneva Cross and the Cross of St. Andrew, with the words "Long and Efficient Service."

The King has also approved of a mark of distinction being instituted to recognise the service of members of the Voluntary Aid Detachments and of the Military Hospitals Reserve. This will take the form of a silver bar-brooch superscribed "V.A.D." and "M.H.R." respectively, and surmounted by the Royal Crown.

NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

It is hoped every member of the Executive Committee will make an effort to attend the Meeting on April 14th, as there is much business to consider in connection with the I.C.N. Grand Council Meeting and Congress next year. When business has to be notified from Headquarters all over the world, months are required for the purpose.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN.

A well-attended meeting of the Matrons' Council was held at 39, Portland Place, on Saturday, March 12th, by kind permission of the President of the British College of Nurses.

After the new President, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., had been introduced by Miss M. Breay, who welcomed her to the position in the name of the Members, and referred to her knowledge of the organisation and work of the Matrons' Council, as set forth in her most useful book "Nursing," Miss Cochrane took the Chair.

In her introductory remarks she said she felt some diffidence in following the distinguished women who had preceded her in that office, but added that as she had been trained under one of them, Miss Mildred Heather Bigg, she trusted that she had imbibed some of her ideals and the high principles she unceasingly inculcated, and her endeavour would be to carry out those ideals to the utmost of her ability.

Miss Cochrane spoke of the critical phase through which the Nursing Profession was passing, but she hoped that some concrete facts would emerge from the discussion of the Report of *The Lancet* Commission later in the meeting, and also that the Matrons' Council would continue its sound policy and do all in its power to forward those principles which has inspired it in the past. She did want it not to be a silent council.

After the reading of the Report by the Hon. Secretary, the members stood for a few moments in silent tribute to the memory of Miss Annie E. Hulme, who was Hon. Secretary of the Council for 14 years.

The following are some of the principal points from the Report:—

"The year 1931 was not an uneventful one in the history of the Council.

Miss Pearse, who had held the office of President since 1925, resigned in April. The Council received her resignation with great regret, as for many years she had been a loyal supporter of all the principles for which the Matrons' Council stands.

Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Matron of Charing Cross Hospital, London, accepted the office of President, to the great gratification of the Council.

Miss K. Smith, R.R.C., who had served as President for two years, and then as Hon. Secretary for five years, also resigned that position in February."

"We have to deplore the loss by death of two old and staunch members: Miss Annie E. Hulme and Mrs. Okell. Miss Hulme held the office of Hon. Secretary for fourteen years, and her active interest in the work of the Council, added to her gracious personality, are within the memory of us all. Miss K. A. Smith represented the Council at her funeral at Brookwood."

Miss S. A. Villiers, as Hon. Treasurer, presented a balance in hand at the close of the year of £6 18s.

The election of the Hon. Officers—Miss M. S. Cochrane, President, and Miss S. A. Villiers, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, and of five new members—was followed by a short discussion on the Report of *The Lancet* Commission, and the members were invited to attend a joint meeting on Tuesday, April 5th, at the British College of Nurses, when the subject would be fully discussed.

Before adjourning for tea Miss Cochrane invited those present to send a message of sympathy to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who was unable to be present owing to indisposition, which was unanimously agreed to, together with a vote of thanks to Mrs. Fenwick for her kindness in inviting the Council to meet at the British College of Nurses.

The History of the International Council of Nurses, 1899 to 1925, which was on sale in the room, was in much demand, and a number of copies disposed of. Miss Cochrane said that it should be in every Training School Library. Sister Tutors had told her the great use they had found it for teaching purposes, and students in studying for their Diplomas.

A very enjoyable social gathering was held after the business meeting, when the members had an opportunity of pleasant intercourse with the new President, with old friends, and also of meeting some of the new members.

THE INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association will be held at the Brook Hospital, Shooter's Hill, by kind invitation of the Matron, Miss Quinlan, on Saturday, April 30th, at 3 p.m. Members are asked to keep this date open.

GUY'S HOSPITAL PAST AND PRESENT NURSES' LEAGUE.

The Thirty-second Annual Meeting, and the Twenty-fourth Annual Dinner, of the Guy's Hospital Nurses' League, will be held in the Nurses' Home, Guy's Hospital, S.E., on Friday evening, May 6th, 1932. Dinner 7 p.m., Annual Meeting 8 p.m.

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 Judges will have power to withhold awards, and their decision shall be final.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)