

had the great privilege of serving her as assistant matron for two years. Though Miss Mollett expected terrific work from everybody, it was all good going and great fun.

She knew every detail about every patient, and was most careful and particular as to their comfort and that their diets were correctly and well served.

One remembers how she would rush down the stairs and stalk along the passage to the big kitchen to stand shaking with wrath if the cook or her maids had sent up an unappetising diet to a sick man.

Her great delight was to steal up to the children's ward and play with the babies. She was keenly interested in every detail of the hospital, and made her nurses, servants, porters, scrubbers, and doctors keen too.

Watching football, tennis and bicycling were her favourite forms of recreation.

When I was there, the hospital built a fine new steam laundry. It was a great joy!

After serving the "diets" in the great kitchen, and the dinners in the nurses' and servants' dining rooms, we frequently slipped down to the laundry to see what we could do with the steam washers, centrifugal wringers, calender and irons. One learnt a lot.

Medical nursing was her chief delight, especially women and children.

She knew that they were necessary to a busy surgeon, but rather distrusted the smart "doctor's nurse." She would not allow patients to be roused too early, if they had slept badly, even if it meant that the ward would not be quite in order for the House Surgeon's visit.

With all her womanly tenderness and understanding, she was rather masculine minded, and had the greatest sense of honour and loyalty.

The last time I saw her was in 1902, after she had left Southampton and was living with Miss Winterscale in Devonshire, rearing chickens. She had always been a lover of chickens and birds, kept lovebirds and canaries in her sitting room, to whom she recited German poetry. I think they liked it.

LUCY GRAY (HARRISON).

After leaving the Royal South Hants Hospital, Miss Mollett and Miss Winterscale (her Assistant Matron) settled down in a charming little moorland village with the quaint name of "Three Legged Cross." Here they started chicken farming on a small but intensive and up-to-date scale. To this was added later the growing of early vegetables. All produce found a ready sale in Bournemouth where it was conveyed by the village carrier three days a week. There seemed every prospect of this venture being a permanent success, but a few years later the Great War intervened, and both partners felt it their duty to offer their services. Miss Mollett was invited to become the Matron of a large Auxiliary War Hospital at Southampton, a position she accepted and filled for about a year, and Miss Winterscale again acted as her Assistant. On their return to "Three Legged Cross" they found, as in so many similar cases at the time, that land, chickens, and so on had suffered and gone back considerably in their absence. They kept on until some time later when the property they rented was sold, passed into other hands and was no longer available for their purpose. It was then that Miss Mollett decided to join her sister Lina in Chili.

During the Great War Miss Mollett was far from happy in England—her instinctive love of Germany and sympathy with its people, *her* people on her mother's side, was openly avowed. Her determination to seek an entirely new environment in Chili with her sister Lina, was, all things considered, a wise decision. Next month we shall publish the first chapter of "The Autumn Years of Wilhelmiana Jane Mollett" by her sister Lina.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE PIONEERS.

Red Cross Badges for Organisers.

PRESENTATION BY DUKE OF YORK.

H.R.H. the Duke of York, the Chairman of the Council of the British Red Cross Society, attended the Society's headquarters on December 16th to present Honorary Life Membership Certificates and badges to Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Oliver for their work in organising and supervising the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service.

Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the Executive Committee presided, and introducing Mr. and Mrs. Oliver, said that it was on the Duke of York's own motion that Life Membership was conferred on Mr. and Mrs. Oliver, at the half-yearly meeting of the Red Cross Executive last month.

The Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service, he recalled, began in 1921 as a result of a request for a blood donor from a local hospital, received by the Camberwell Division, of which Mr. Oliver was then Honorary Secretary. Finding that there was a real need for a service of this kind, Mr. Oliver formed a circle of Red Cross members to try to meet the demand. In 1924 the demand had increased so much that he had to appeal for outside volunteers. The London Blood Transfusion Service was then formed, with Mr. Oliver as Honorary Secretary, and in 1925, 428 calls for donors were received and supplied.

Until 1925 Mr. Oliver ran his work as Divisional Secretary as well as the Blood Transfusion Service, but by then the increase in calls for blood donors had become so great that he had to resign his Divisional Secretaryship and devote his whole time to the Service. Since then the Service has steadily grown, and it now had over 1,300 donors on its books. Last year 1,627 transfusions were carried out as against 1,333 in 1929. Up to date this year 1,980 donors had been supplied.

The rise in the figure last year and this, said Sir Arthur Stanley, was all the more significant when it was remembered that the success of liver treatment, which is now being widely prescribed for pernicious anæmia, had in many cases obviated the necessity for successive blood transfusions.

Mr. Oliver's office was open day and night.

On an average six calls per day were dealt with, but frequently ten or more were received. The record number was eighteen. This had twice been reached.

"It is no small task," said Sir Arthur Stanley in conclusion, "to maintain a 24 hour service year in and year out, for so long a time, when holidays, illnesses and accidents are taken into account. But that is what Mr. and Mrs. Oliver have done."

The Duke of York then handed the certificates and badges to Mr. and Mrs. Oliver.

NUTRITION.

Under the auspices of the Imperial Agricultural Bureau Council, the Medical Research Council, and the Reid Library a journal dealing with nutrition has been published by the Imperial Agricultural Bureau Council, Aberdeen, which brings together the results of work in both the human and animal fields on nutrition, and for the first time attempts to review research on this important subject.

The editors are Dr. J. B. Orr, Director of the Rowett Research Institute, Professor J. J. R. Macleod, of Aberdeen University, and Dr. Harriette Chick, of the Lister Institute.

It is announced that the germ of infantile paralysis has been isolated and made visible under the microscope by Dr. Frederick Ebersson, U.S.A.

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