

NURSING ECHOES.

Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of a large number of Queen's Nurses, to date from April 1st, 1934. These nurses work on the staff of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing which operates in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, and their ministrations are invaluable to the community.

The nursing event of May is the commemoration of Florence Nightingale's Birthday, May 12th.

It will be observed, as usual, in London by the placing of wreaths at the foot of her statue in Pall Mall, London—the place of honour being reserved for the Nightingale Training School at St. Thomas's Hospital, facing south. The National Council of Nurses will also send flowers. The anniversary will be observed as Red Cross Day, as a reminder of the example set by her in the service of the sick and suffering, and for the promotion of her ideals.

A wreath will be laid on her statue on behalf of the British Red Cross Society by the County of London branch, and on her statue in Derby by the Derbyshire branch. Memorial services will be held at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, by the Nightingale Fellowship; and at Liverpool Cathedral and at other places closely associated with her life and work tributes will be paid.

Flag days on behalf of Red Cross work, meetings and demonstrations will take place in London and throughout the country generally.

Last year a sum of £13,000 was collected.

The War Office announces that Miss D. M. Martin, A.R.R.C., has been appointed Matron-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, in succession to Miss M. E. Medforth, C.B.E., R.R.C., who retires.

Nursing Sister Daisy Maud Martin served in France and Belgium from 1914 to 1918 and was mentioned and decorated. She has been Sister since the close of the War and has been doing duty at Hilsea. She joined the Service in 1913 and has had duty at Jhansi, Allahabad, Devonport, Netley, and Chatham.

Miss Medforth has been at the head of the Service since 1930. She was educated at Oxford High School and the Metropolitan Hospital, and joined the Q.A.I.M.N.S. in 1906. She was on the Western front, at Mudros, in Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Egypt, and Salonika, and was twice mentioned and decorated.

The retirement of Miss Medforth will be sincerely regretted; during her term of office she has become exceedingly popular throughout the profession, with the members of which she wisely kept in touch, her genial and happy temperament making her a very welcome guest at all public functions.

The Governor-General of Canada, the Earl of Bessborough, accompanied by the Countess of Bessborough, recently held an investiture at Government House, Ottawa, for the recipients of honours and awards bestowed by the King in the New Year's List.

The ceremony was the first of its kind since 1919, when the Canadian House of Commons passed a re-

solution asking the King to refrain from awarding honours to Canadians.

Amongst the recipients of honours, Canadian nurses formed a remarkable group—and the profession expressed its satisfaction and pleasure at the special recognition of their work. We hope such encouragement of their useful attainments may continue in Canada. A few more honours for nurses at home would not come amiss. Our present Government has been singularly oblivious of the national value of nursing.

The Duke of York presided at the festival dinner of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, held at Grosvenor House. The hospital benefited, as a result of the dinner, to the extent of nearly £40,000.

The Duke said that they desired to provide adequate accommodation for the nursing staff in a home-like atmosphere, with reasonable facilities for recreation.

Sir Patrick Hastings, K.C., asked the matron to choose her nursing staff for their beauty as well as for their efficiency, and told of the trials of patients awakened early in the morning and subjected to frequent blanket-baths.

"They strip you, they cover you very inadequately with a blanket, and then they proceed from your feet upwards to indulge in their daily occupation of washing until you have nothing but a blush left."

The controversy between the Duke of Atholl and the Government over his Fund in support of charities, which partook somewhat of a lottery, continues, but what we realise is that now that he has allotted some £45,000 of the stated total of £59,000, hospitals and other charities have accepted with thanks the grants offered to them—and small wonder in these hard times. £500 each has been allotted to the Nation's Fund for Nurses, and the Elderly Nurses Home Fund, Bournemouth, and £300 to Lady Cowdray's Memorial (College of Nursing), although surely the latter Memorial should not be classed as a charity.

The late Mrs. Stacpoole, wife of Mr. Henry de Vere Stacpoole, the novelist, and herself an author, left Rose Cottage, Stebbing, Essex, and her effects there upon trust for her husband for life, and then to the Nation's Fund for Nurses, to be used as a home for fully-trained hospital nurses whose circumstances, through ill-health or otherwise, render it desirable that a home should be provided for them. She also left £1,000 upon trust for her husband for life with remainder to the said fund, for the upkeep of Rose Cottage.

Part of a legacy received by the Swedish Red Cross Society is likely to be spent on flying ambulances.

By the will of a wealthy merchant named Carl Carlberg £100,000 has been received by the society, and it is said that £15,000 will be used for the purchase of air ambulances.

Air ambulances are of vital importance in Sweden because of the great distances between medical centres.

The military air force collaborates with the Red Cross in maintaining these ambulances.

Many daring flights in storm, intense cold and fog and with difficult landings are recorded in the history of the air ambulances.

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