

has discharged her many duties at the Connaught Hospital of which she has been in charge for the last seven years, and in the Birthday Honours List the award of the M.B.E. to Miss Martha Donald, Senior Nursing Sister in Tanganyika, and to Miss M. G. Le Bas, Matron of the Government Hospital, Gold Coast Colony is announced.

The Silver Badge of the Association has been awarded to 42 Nursing Sisters, of whom satisfactory reports have been received for five years' service abroad. A Bar and Ribbon to the Silver Badge has also been awarded to 26 Matrons and Nurses for 10 years' good service.

Many excellent reports of the work of the nurses are received, thus:—

"Has ability in organising and has created a spirit of independence in her district with the result that the people are contributing much more than heretofore towards the maintenance of their nurse. Sister is a satisfactory nurse in every respect; faithful to duty, kind to her patients, eager and energetic in doing all that she can to better the conditions of people."

And again, from a nurse in the Malay Nursing Service:

"Will you kindly inform the Committee that I have been put on the Retired List with a pension as from July, 1934. It has been a wonderful twenty years of good fortune and happiness to me in every way, and the knowledge of not having to worry as to ways and means in the future removes all anxiety on that score, as I shall have sufficient to live on quietly, yet with comfort, I hope."

Two hundred and forty-three grants have been given by the 1930 Fund for the benefit of District Nurses to meet some particular need. It is difficult to exaggerate the acute strain of any extra expense when one is living with no financial margin. An accident—sudden illness—the loss of friends—the necessity to find new rooms—the need for some special treatment or appliance—in all these and in many other emergencies the 1930 Fund has come to the rescue.

During the year the Committee have disbursed the sum of £6,061 8s., £5,408 14s. 4d. of this being in the form of regular weekly grants, and £652 13s. 8d. in that of special grants. In addition the total administrative expenses have been £585 3s. 4d.

Recently there seems to have been a spate of lawn tennis matches, and one of the most exciting was that which took place at St. Charles' Hospital, Ladbroke Grove, W., on July 23rd, between Charing Cross Hospital, represented by Mrs. Tresham, and Nurses Emberton, I. Kempson, and R. Kempson, and the Kingston and District Hospital represented by Nurses Dawson, Macdonald, Gaines and Moran. A close contest to the last resulted in victory for Charing Cross, and the presentation of the Cup and replicas by Lady Williams to the winning team. We congratulate all concerned.

The appointment of Matron to the Somerset Hospital, at Cape Town, has for some time been under the consideration of the Cape Hospital Board, and, subject to the approval of the Administrator, it has now appointed Miss J. H. L. Reive, Matron of the Peninsula Maternity Hospital, to this important position.

The decision has been complicated by the desire of the sub-committee deputed to make recommendations that the Matron appointed should be able to speak Afrikaans, and the pros and cons for this bi-lingual requirement have been the subject of much discussion, and considerable difference of opinion.

The Committee have not succeeded in finding a suitable candidate who speaks Afrikaans, but in appointing Miss Reive (who has been 14 years in the public service in South Africa) the Board have granted her three months' leave of absence (which we understand will be taken at her own expense) in order that she may acquire a thorough grounding in Afrikaans, they have further made the appointment subject to a probationary period of one year, so that at the end of that time she may produce language qualifications.

Mrs. Horwood, chairman of the sub-committee which made the recommendation, gave the Cape Hospital Board its reasons for the selection. None of the overseas applicants were suitable. Among the South Africans there was one of outstanding personality and achievement, South African born and bi-lingual, but she withdrew her application. The South African applicants did not satisfy the requirements of the committee, and no decision was reached.

At another meeting the name of Miss Reive was submitted, and the committee decided to recommend her. "She fulfilled," Mrs. Horwood said, "all the technical qualifications required, she had personal knowledge of every aspect and branch of nursing and she had dealt with the nursing care of women of every race, creed and colour, and the difficulty of bi-lingualism falls away in view of the fact that Miss Reive has given a definite undertaking to submit a certificate of proficiency in Afrikaans within two years from the date of her appointment."

We agree that a bi-lingual qualification is desirable, and that its possession might decide the issue in candidates of equal professional qualifications, but Dr. H. A. Moffat in a letter to the *Cape Times* has strong grounds for his plea that a bi-lingual qualification should not be the first consideration. "We can," he writes, "build a high wall round our little kraal and shut out every one from outside it, considering ourselves self sufficient. It means keeping out fresh blood and the light from other lands." He advocates getting the best persons to fill positions in South Africa wherever they may come from.

The Nurses' Missionary League reports that six of its members were in Quetta at the time of the earthquake. Two of them lost their lives: Miss Grace Hooton (trained at St. Thomas' Hospital) and Miss S. M. Miller (trained at the London Hospital). One was very seriously injured, Miss D. Mellowes (trained at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington). The other three were Miss A. Manwaring (trained at Prince of Wales' Hospital, Tottenham), Miss W. Wheeler (trained at the Metropolitan Hospital), and Miss E. Dallison (trained at Mildmay Mission Hospital). All three were injured but were sufficiently restored to leave India towards the end of June and were expected to reach England early in July.

The sympathy of all nurses must go out to their colleagues who have passed through such a harrowing experience, and to the relatives of those who lost their lives in this appalling disaster.

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