

Throughout the War, Morant worked under the greatest difficulties for the success of the Act; but "the longer the ravages of war lasted, the more he was impressed with the need for establishing the nation's health services upon a sounder and more efficient basis, and the keener grew his desire to merge the Health Insurance work in the wider organisation of a Central Ministry of Health. In March, 1917, Lord Rhondda, then President of the Local Government Board, brought the matter up before the Cabinet, and showed how many problems could be met by a simple three-clause Bill creating a Ministry of Health.

"The medical correspondent of *The Times* described the proposed Ministry as a stroke of genius. . . . The simplicity of the step, once the step had been suggested, was its most striking feature."

"Those who were behind the scenes knew well that it was to Morant that the credit of inspiring the proposal was due."

MINISTRY OF HEALTH ACT.

The Ministry of Health Act was placed on the Statute Book on June 3rd, 1919, "and at length Morant saw the successful culmination of the struggle, which he had carried on through good report and through evil report for so many years."

Dr. Addison, President of the Local Government Board, became the first Minister of Health, and on June 25th, the new Ministry was brought into existence with Morant as its first permanent Secretary.

"The successful creation of the Ministry of Health was to be his crowning achievement."

For nine brief months he worked strenuously to lay the foundations of the Ministry on a sound basis, and during this time the Nurses' Registration Bill passed through Parliament under his guidance, and became law. Then, on March 8th, 1920, he was taken ill, and had to leave the office early, and on March 13th died of septic pneumonia. Surely, "all the trumpets sounded" when his intrepid and gallant spirit gained the other side.

His friend Sir William Richmond wrote of him: "He possessed a rare gift for friendship, and in a marked degree. Only his intimates knew what a depth of affection resided in his strong, even stern, character. . . . He was made of the stuff that has produced martyrs. He was an enthusiast in the cause for which he laboured, and in which he believed. He was ambitious, but not for self advancement, but for the success of the work he had taken in hand. The good of his country took the first place in his heart, and he died serving it up to the last hour of consciousness. He died in the service of his country as much as if he had been taken on the field of battle."

MARGARET BREAY.

SIR ROBERT MORANT AND THE STATUTORY EDUCATION OF NURSES.

The Editor of this JOURNAL, who, as Hon. Secretary of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, came into intimate association with Sir Robert Morant during the year 1919, desires to place on record her admiration for the masterly manner in which he protected the basic principles of self-government for the Nursing Profession in the Government Act, against a very powerful opposition. We owe the power of defining standards of professional education, central examination, and the One Portal to the Register, largely to his determination, in supporting these demands, rights and privileges, the present generation of Nurses must, if necessary, fight to maintain.

When the history of the monumental thirty years' struggle (1887-1919) of the Nurses in Great Britain for State Registration comes to be written, Robert Morant will stand out as a champion for whose services we owe unstinted gratitude.

E. G. F.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

The arrangements in celebration of the King's Silver Jubilee are now receiving detailed attention.

The *London Gazette* announces that the Privy Council has ordered that:—

His Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury do prepare a special form of prayer and of thanksgiving to Almighty God for the protection afforded to the King's Majesty during the 25 years of his auspicious reign.

This form of prayer and thanksgiving is to be used at St. Paul's Cathedral on Monday, May 6th, the anniversary of the King's Accession, and in "all churches and chapels in England as defined in the Interpretation Measure 1925," either on that day or on the following Sunday. The King's Printer is ordered to print a competent number of copies of the order of service for distribution. This is a very thoughtful provision as thousands will be preserved as souvenirs.

Child Welfare in Australia.

To commemorate the King's Silver Jubilee the Federal Ministry has decided to launch a national campaign for the reduction of maternal mortality and the promotion of child welfare, with particular reference to infantile paralysis.

Cancer Fund for Canada.

The King's Silver Jubilee Cancer Fund for Canada was launched by the Governor-General in a speech which was broadcast throughout Canada on March 1st. The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition also spoke.

The 318 letters from the Emperor Napoleon to the Empress Marie Louise, which were recently acquired by the French Government, are now on view to the public in the Galerie Mazarine at the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris.

It is announced that in the General Election in Turkey 17 women have been returned to the New Grand National Assembly. This is wonderful considering how recently Turkish women have been enfranchised.

The feminist movement in France is slowly making progress, and most interesting speeches were made at a luncheon recently given at the Hotel Victoria, where the Duchesse de la Rochefoucauld was the guest of honour of the Anglo-French Luncheon Club at which the Duchess of Atholl presided.

The Duchesse de la Rochefoucauld said that the feminist movement in France had as one of its aims to justify the people of her country in the face of the world. The women of France wanted to show that they merited suffrage and wanted to work in harmony with the women of Great Britain to maintain the civilization of the West.

French women of all classes are remarkably able, intellectual, intelligent, artistic, wonderful at business—workers in every sphere—good wives, good mothers, fine patriots. We just have no patience with Frenchmen in failing to do justice to the womanhood of France.

The Institute of Journalists has prepared a Parliamentary Bill, the aim of which is to reserve the description "journalist" to persons whose names are inscribed on a register recognised by statute and controlled by a body known as the Journalists' Registration Council of the United Kingdom.

Daffodil Day, which is organised annually by the Servers of the Blind League throughout the Metropolitan area in aid of the blind, including the Ellen Terry National Homes for Blind and Mentally Defective Children, will be held this

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