

PRESENTATIONS.

TO MISS E. S. INNES, R.R.C., D.N.

We have received the following notice, sent us officially for publication, and have much pleasure in giving prominence to it.

A small, but representative, gathering assembled at the home of Miss Elinor Lupton on December 20th to make a presentation to Miss Innes on the occasion of her retirement from the post of Lady Superintendent at the Leeds General Infirmary, which she has held for over 21 years.

A handsome cheque was presented, subscribed for by past and present members of the Leeds General Infirmary Nursing Staff, many members of the Honorary Staff and Board, and by personal friends, including the Viscountess Halifax, Claire, Lady Manton, and Lady Moynihan. The presentation was made by Mrs. Charles Lupton and Miss Innes suitably replied.

A folio containing the names of all subscribers was also presented, and the gathering then adjourned for tea.

We understand that Miss Innes is making her home in London, and we take this opportunity of wishing her all happiness in the future.

Miss Innes' fine professional work, both as Lady Superintendent of the Leeds General Infirmary, and for the organisation of the Nursing Profession, is widely recognised, and her many colleagues and friends in the nursing world at large will endorse the good wishes expressed by her Yorkshire colleagues, pupils and friends.

TO MISS JANE C. COWIE, R.G.N., F.B.C.N.

High tribute to the work of Miss Jane C. Cowie, on her retirement from the position of Matron of the Royal Alexandra Infirmary, Paisley, after 17 years of devoted service, was paid by the President of the Board, Mr. Thomas Greenlees, when he waited on her on December 3rd, to present her with a retiring gift.

Mr. Greenlees, on behalf of the directors and honorary directors, said they all realised the responsibilities Miss Cowie had carried—responsibilities which at times none could share. They were also very conscious of the great opportunity which the position of Matron gave of displaying leadership, and of instilling ideas in the minds of those who were training for a splendid profession. As directors of the Infirmary, they recognised most gratefully what Miss Cowie had done for them during these years, and also what she had done to promote the interests of her staff (past and present), and above all of the patients under her care. She took with her into her retirement their best wishes for her health and happiness, and for the enjoyment of her well-earned leisure.

Mr. Greenlees then handed to Miss Cowie a cheque on a suitably inscribed silver salver.

Miss Cowie, in the course of her reply, expressed her grateful thanks for the handsome gift. She said that the work of the Infirmary, with its absorbing interest, had filled her life. It appealed to her because inside the walls there was no respect of persons, "neither Jew nor Greek, bond or free." The seriousness of the illness was

the only measure for the attention to be given. Then the associations of the place with the past surrounded it with a "cloud of witnesses" to support and inspire. And last there was the development of character in the young nurses—a never-ending source of joy. She hoped that the traditions of the voluntary hospitals, which had done such amazing work, would be sustained. In scientific achievement and the building up of a system of nursing unrivalled in the world, these hospitals had a claim on public gratitude that could not be lightly set aside for mass production of hospital treatment.

In addition to the above presentation, Miss Cowie was made the recipient of a number of parting gifts. From the visiting medical and surgical staff she received a cheque; the nursing staff, a gold wristlet watch; the League of Nurses and friends, a suite of bedroom furniture; the domestic and male staff, two bookcases; and the day workers, a set of hair brushes.

Miss Cowie is a valued member of the Council of the British College of Nurses, and we are glad to learn that she will still remain so.

THE KENTUCKY FRONTIER NURSING SERVICE.

Those who follow the fortunes of the Kentucky Frontier Nursing Service, and the fine work achieved through it by Mrs. Breckinridge and the staff of nurse-midwives associated with her, as well as all lovers of horses, will read with sorrow, the following article from the *Quarterly Bulletin* of the Service just received.

We can imagine no more heart-breaking episode, entailing, as it does, the loss of dear and trusted companions, and also a severe dislocation of the work of the Service.

Periodic Ophthalmia.

Anyone who has visited Wendover the past summer will understand only too well the full meaning of Periodic Ophthalmia, the outbreak of which in our stables has been one of the greatest tragedies that has ever happened in the Service.

Carmenetta was the first victim. She was a little mare that, because of her gentle, quiet disposition and surefootedness, carried the most precious loads during the time we had her—Mrs. Breckinridge on her first trip down Hurricane after her back was broken, Marion after her long illness, and some of our dearest friends unaccustomed to riding. Except when used for special purposes, she was ridden by Inty. Inty first noticed Carmenetta's eye was discharging and thought it only a gnat or a seed that had infected it. She gave her careful and tender care and when results were not obtained, called various men for consultation. The only diagnosis we were able to obtain from local authorities was "moonblindness." In the nine years of the Service no one had ever heard of a contagious eye disease, so the main thought was to remove whatever particle was causing the irritation. After several days without relief, Carmenetta was sent up to Wendover to be put in the horse hospital barn and cared for by the couriers. After a week's rest she seemed much better and able to go on duty again.

Soon we began hearing of horses and mules in the district affected the same way, and in rapid succession Nellie Gray, Little Bill, Glen, Jason and Roxy all developed bad eyes. We asked Dr. Charles Hagyard of Lexington to come up, which he did as a courtesy without cost to us, and he diagnosed the condition as Periodic Ophthalmia, a very contagious disease about which little is known except that it is recurrent and results in inevitable blindness. As there

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)