

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING AND THE RED CROSS.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to grant his Patronage to the British Red Cross Society. Since the formation of the Red Cross organisation in 1870, each reigning monarch has been Patron of the Society. Her Majesty Queen Mary is the President, H.R.H. the Duke of York is Chairman of the Council, and H.R.H. the Princess Royal is Commandant-in-Chief of British Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachments.

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ROYAL TO PRESENT RED CROSS SHIELDS.

H.R.H. The Princess Royal, Commandant-in-Chief of British Red Cross Detachments, has graciously promised to present the Stanley Shields to the successful teams at the finals of the Society's national competitions in First Aid and Home Nursing, at the Wharncliffe Rooms, London, on Wednesday, May 6th. Eliminating Rounds are at present being held between the County Branches of the British Isles.

MISS FAY COMPTON AS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

A midnight film premiere on behalf of the British Red Cross Society will be given on April 22nd, at the Rialto Theatre, Coventry Street, W. The chairman of the Committee is the Hon. Mrs. Denis Berry. The principal film will be "The Wedding Group" featuring Miss Fay Compton as Florence Nightingale. Particulars may be obtained from the Appeals Department, British Red Cross Society, 14, Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.

TOO MUCH TALK—TOO LITTLE ACTION.

As public opinion has been deeply stirred in this country by the persistent reports of the use of poison gas by the Italians in Abyssinia, after debates in both Houses of Parliament, an assurance has been given that the Government mean to find out the truth. Surely there need be no difficulty in so doing, or further hesitation in taking drastic measures to terminate such atrocities. Too much talk—too little action. Even Signor Mussolini, as the head of the Government, has confirmed the willingness of the Italian Government to safeguard the efficacy of the Red Cross emblem. Strict orders, he says, have been given to this end, in view of the deep conviction of the Italian Government of the essential value of the Red Cross for all the interested States. The Red Cross emblem must be scrupulously respected and must not be in any way abused.

BRITISH RED CROSS UNIT IN ABYSSINIA.

Dr. Melly, in charge of the British Red Cross Ambulance Unit, from the neighbourhood of Lake Ashangi reports heavy losses of stores and material as the result of air bombing.

Ten tents have been totally destroyed and 25 are perforated and unusable. All but two weeks' supply of medical and surgical stores are destroyed.

A hundred wounded are being treated daily.

Native personnel from the Kenya and Somaliland border, who, subsequent to bombardment, requested to be repatriated, have left for Dessie in charge of an officer returning to their own country.

THE STORY OF THE "AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING."

LOYALTY TO PROFESSIONAL IDEALS.

"The Story of the *American Journal of Nursing*," the official publication of the American Nurses' Association, and the National League of Nursing Education, which we have received with great pleasure from Miss Mary M. Roberts, editor of the *Journal*, has been "prepared by the *American Journal of Nursing*," and its dedication—printed on the inside cover of the distinctive green colour which has been associated with it from the first number, published in October, 1900—is "to the courageous and far-seeing pioneers who laid the substantial foundations of professional journalism for nurses in the United States. May all nurses who read be heartened by the story of difficulties surmounted and may those who study the history of nursing be aided in interpreting the present in the light of the past and in pointing the way to the future."

"The need for a magazine for nurses was discussed informally in 1895 at the third meeting of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, whose members believed that a magazine owned and edited by nurses would provide a means by which scattered alumnae groups could talk things over, would further the cause of nursing, and would represent and interpret nursing to the public. It is true that there were magazines for nurses at that time but, since they were published for nurses not by them, they did not satisfactorily present the point of view of the nursing associations just coming into existence. However, it was wisely urged by some of the members that plans for a magazine be postponed until the scattered alumnae groups had combined to form one national nursing organisation which should be the representative nursing body of the country."

Soon after the formation of the Nurses' Associated Alumnae, a Committee on Periodicals was appointed, but it was a committee appointed in 1899, composed of Miss M. E. P. Davis as chairman, and Miss Harriet Fulmer, Miss M. Adelaide Nutting, Miss Sophia Palmer, Mrs. Isabel Hampton Robb and Miss M. W. Stevenson, whose work laid the foundation upon which the *Journal* now rests.

The Committee on Periodicals, "with amazing courage, for they knew very little about journalism or the business details of producing a magazine, and with no financial assistance from outside the nursing group, set out to raise money, to learn the business and to establish the *Journal*."

It was finally decided to form a joint stock company and to sell shares at 100 dollars each. These were sold only to nurses, so that from the very first the *Journal* has been owned and controlled by members of the nursing profession.

The late Miss Sophia Palmer, the first Editor-in-Chief in preparation for this work then obtained three months' leave of absence from her position as Superintendent of the Rochester (New York) City Hospital at her own expense to study Journalism, and to establish the magazine. Thereafter she carried on the work of the *Journal* in her free time, and without salary, until June 1901, when she resigned from the hospital to give full time to the *Journal*, being assisted by several departmental editors.

"On October 1st, 1900, the first edition was printed, bound and wrapped for mailing. Then it was discovered that the magazine could not be mailed because the owners of the *Journal* stock were not incorporated and there was no one authorised to distribute the magazine as required by the United States postal authorities. Miss Davis refused to be stopped with the goal so near and stepped into the breach without hesitation." She went to Phila-

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