

## TERRITORIAL ARM NURSING SERVICE.

### NEW MATRON-IN-CHIEF.

The War Office announces that Miss A. M. Phillips, R.R.C., has been appointed Matron-in-Chief, Territorial Army Nursing Service, with effect from January 1st, 1936, in succession to Miss R. Osborne, C.B.E., R.R.C., who relinquishes the appointment on that date.

The Matron-in-Chief wishes all T.A.N.S. members every happiness in the New Year, and desires to remind those who have not yet sent their enrolment parchments to their Principal Matrons that these are now due.

The War Office announces that a number of appointments have been made recently to the position of Staff Nurse in the Territorial Army Nursing Service.

Members of the T.A.N.S. undertake to serve in Military General Hospitals, Casualty Clearing Stations and other medical units, when the Territorial Army is embodied. All appointments are made to the General Hospitals, and the actual unit with which each member is to serve will be notified to her by the Principal Matron when the emergency occurs.

### COMING EVENTS.

*January 18th.*—The British College of Nurses, Council Meeting, 39, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30 p.m.

*January 21st.*—Florence Nightingale International Foundation. Meeting Committee of Management, St. Thomas's Hospital, S.E. 10.30 a.m.

*January 24th.*—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting, 20, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30 p.m.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

### THE BART'S GOLD MEDAL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was very much interested in the October number of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING as it recalls several incidents in my early life when I entered Bart's, as a special probationer, because being under 23 I was not old enough for the main Hospital. In the Nursing Echoes you mention the awful shrouds provided, with Toby dog collars and how you managed to get something better from the authorities.

The memories stirred up by the mention of the Editorial in the League News, of the inauguration of the Prize of a Gold Medal for the Nursing Staff in 1885, and of your personal regrets at having burnt your little "Red Book" have made me wish to let you know what a strong influence your memory has had on my whole life. I remember Nurse Turner who gained the first Gold Medal as I was working in her ward as a young probationer in 1885, the year I entered the hospital, Nurse Freeman, who won the book prize that year was a personal friend of mine, and won the Gold Medal in 1886 when I won the prize of Books, and I was the Gold Medallist in 1887, but that was after you were married and Miss Isla Stewart was Matron. I still shew my medal occasionally with great pride to my children and new friends, and the books are in my sitting room case. I chose Emerson's works, thinking I should enjoy reading them in my old age.

I remember how young you looked when you went round the wards in those days. I left, when I finished my training as I was told that it was very unlikely that I should

be advanced to a sistership, owing to my being a rationalist, so after a short rest I went to the City of London Lying-In Hospital and got the certificates for Maternity and Midwifery and then took a short course of massage under Dr. Stretch Dowse, and then I went out to Melbourne and took to private nursing, but did not join any of their institutions as I wanted to be free.

I had joined the British Nurses' Association as a Life Member, but it is only for the last few years that I have seen the Journal again.

I have always felt proud to remember that you were my first Matron when I hear of your international activities.

I married late in life a Taranaki farmer and had four children and a most enjoyable life, and they all helped in the work from babyhood, and now I am a widow and can't get about alone owing to neuritis, so have a lot of time to think about the past.

My eldest daughter is a doctor on the staff of the Alder Hey Hospital for Children, near Liverpool, and has been at home since June, 1934, and is thoroughly enjoying all her experiences.

I am sure your memories must be very satisfying and we can all be proud of our Empire, though I think the mistake made at home of giving these young Colonies complete freedom to rule themselves was a big mistake, from which we are now suffering, but hope we shall soon pull down the barriers we have built up against trade and immigrants and which my husband and I always opposed.

Yours faithfully,

A. M. T. (*née Stevens*).

### KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

*State Registered Private Nurse* writes: "I wonder why it is that amongst private Nurses who are left substantial legacies by their patients so few of them are in the State Register. This after sixteen years of legal status, is proof that the public know, and care little whether we are trained or not. Is there no way of teaching them how unfair it is to those nurses who conscientiously prepare themselves for their duties?"

[The first thing is to get the medical profession to support as it should the statutory Standard of Nursing, and then to work for an Act for the compulsory Registration of Nurses. So long as unscrupulous persons, including Domestic Servants Registries, may advertise "sick nurses" and our Municipal Departments employ them, we fear nothing will stop this profit making abuse.—Ed.]

*A Delegate* writes: "I attend the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Nurses with the greatest interest and pleasure, its international relations widen our views. Specially am I grateful for the wonderful report published in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which I, of course, have filed for reference as requested. My brother, who is a journalist, has the greatest admiration for 'our official organ,' and says it contains invaluable work of which we nurses are not sufficiently appreciative. We are rather an ungrateful profession there is no doubt."

### THE "BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING" AND THE "MIDWIFE" SUPPLEMENT

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### PRIZE COMPETITION FOR FEBRUARY.

Describe the cause and symptoms of (1) acute and (2) chronic nephritis, the treatment and nursing care.

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