

ALEXANDRA DAY FUNDS.

The collection on Alexandra Day this year—June 23—totalled £50,479. After deducting expenses, £43,017 was added to the fund. This splendid result from the Rose Day collection will be very gratifying to the Duchess of Kent.

It was stated at a meeting of the Administrative Committee at the Mansion House that the London collection amounted to £45,670. To this £542 collected by steamship companies and other income of £4,267 had to be added.

Expenses amounted to £7,462. The total for distribution was stated to be £43,308, of which £4,965 is to be given to charities in which the Duchess of Kent is especially interested, and £38,343 allocated to various hospitals and charities.

The balance, which includes the leasehold premises and stock of roses on hand, will be carried forward to next year.

TAKING TIME BY THE FORELOCK.

The Joint Council of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society have, in accordance with the recommendation of the Home Office, equipped a series of rooms in the basement of their offices at 12, Grosvenor Crescent, to serve, in the event of air raids, as a refuge for the staff working in the building. The rooms have all been rendered gas-proof by means of special sealing devices for doors, windows and fireplaces. Additional protection to the windows is provided by exterior anti-splinter screens made of thick blanketing material stitched to $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. mesh wire netting, to lessen damage from flying splinters, blast, or falling débris.

Special fittings render the protective shutters and blast screens easily removable in normal times and quickly replaceable in the event of emergency. The rooms are entered through an air-lock, and it is estimated that the space reserved is adequate to house the whole staff for a period of 12 consecutive hours.

THE COMMEMORATION GARDENS TRUST.

The Rev. J. W. Potter, F.R.H.S., Chairman, informs us that to date 1,100 boxes of flowers have been sent to 150 hospitals, and it is hoped to send some from the greenhouses. Unfortunately the cold weather has killed off a great mass of outside flowers that were coming on nicely. We could wish this really beneficent organisation would extend its gifts to Nurses' Homes—then we might perhaps receive a nosegay!

LEGAL MATTERS.

Placed on Probation.

A series of thefts from Redhill County Hospital, Edgware—stated to have brought many members of the staff under suspicion—was disclosed at Hendon Police Court.

Kathleen Frances Cleaver, aged 30, a nurse, pleaded guilty to obtaining three sums of money from the Post Office Savings Bank by forged books, and stealing two aprons and a packet of cigarettes from the hospital.

Cleaver, who asked for five other cases of larceny and one of forgery to be taken into consideration, was placed on probation for two years in the care of her father. The father was ordered to enter into a recognisance of £200, while the woman was ordered to pay £15 costs.

Mr. Derek Whiteley, prosecuting, said that Cleaver had obtained sums of £3 by taking the Savings Book and filling in withdrawal forms in the names of the owners, who were also nurses. She was seen by detectives to take a test packet from a letter rack, and when spoken to made a complete admission.

Kathleen Frances Cleaver is, we regret to state, a Registered Nurse.

OUR FOREIGN LETTER.

“Hospital of Universal Love”
(Methodist General Hospital)
Hankow,

Central China.

October 7th, 1937.

DEAR EDITOR,—In the midst of air raids and war troubles, it was a real joy and refreshment to receive the B.J.N. and read of the doings of the Congress. We are so delighted that it was very successful and fruitful. Surely it means a great step forward for the nursing profession throughout the world.

How lovely the “History of Nursing” pageant seems to have been! Our nurses are keenly interested in the pictures of it; the one in the B.J.N. is beautiful.

Alas! that again China was not able to gain the Congress for her shores, but that is a joy for some future date, without any doubt, and we shall prove that that time, whenever it comes, is the right time, I am sure.

You will know from the newspapers that Hankow has suffered bombing from the air in concert with other large towns and cities throughout China. As we are 600 miles in the interior, some thought that enemy planes wouldn't come to this open town of no military significance. Preparations were made, however, and we had six or seven air raid warnings, but each time the anti-aircraft managed to keep them at bay outside the city.

On September 24th, however, a very dull and cloudy day, nine enemy planes managed to get right over the city behind the clouds before they were detected. Some say that these planes were disguised as Chinese planes. Anyway, the air raid warning went; hardly had its note died away when the mightiest, most appalling crash I had ever heard sounded over our heads and splintered glass from the hospital staircase window fell at my side as I hurried down.

I expected to see the hospital collapse at the next moment. It didn't, however, and I flew back up to the top floor to assist the nurses in bringing down all the helpless patients to the ground floor. We did this in both men's and women's wards as swiftly as possible while crashes resounded and machine-gun fire went round and round overhead. The nurses were splendid, groups of them seizing the helpless patients' mattresses and carrying them downstairs, comforting the patients as they went. Others snatched up the babies from their cots or sat by such sick children as could not be moved.

They got all the women servants into a sheltered spot and kept excellent order. All the time glass from windows and plaster from ceilings fell here and there. Where had the bombs fallen? we wondered; somewhere near, we were certain.

At last, the “All Clear” sounded and we found crowds in the street carrying in wounded, dead and dying to the out-patient department. The floor was covered with broken glass and plaster (the ceilings and windows had suffered heavily), but it was immediately swept up out of the way of the numbers of stretchers that were pouring in. A corps of Red Cross men organised by the authorities carried them in and did excellent work. Oh! it was gruesome—heartrending to receive such pitifully broken bodies, many breathing their last. Some already had done so. One of our missionaries took on the task of separating those who had died from the living ones and taking them off to the mortuary, while others helped in every possible way.

One hundred and twenty injured came to us in that hour, and we found that a bomb had been dropped on a group of tenement homes and shops next door to our church, which is next door to the hospital.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)