

TERRITORIAL ARMY NURSING SERVICE.

Miss Phillips, R.R.C. (Matron-in-Chief, Territorial Army Nursing Service), had the honour of being received by Her Majesty Queen Mary, at Marlborough House, on July 6th, and presenting to Her Majesty the following Principal Matrons, T.A.N.S., to each of whom Her Majesty graciously presented the badge of the Service:

Miss C. H. ALEXANDER (Matron-designate, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge), Principal Matron 1st Eastern General Hospital.

Miss H. D. BUTLER (Matron, St. Charles' Hospital, W.10), Principal Matron, 3rd London General Hospital.

Miss M. A. CLARK (Matron, King's Cross Hospital, Dundee), Principal Matron, 5th Scottish General Hospital.

Mrs. E. O. JACKSON (Matron, Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich), Principal Matron, 3rd Eastern General Hospital.

Miss F. E. KAYE (Matron, Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen), Principal Matron, 1st Scottish General Hospital.

Miss M. G. MILNE (Matron, General Infirmary, Leeds), Principal Matron, 2nd Northern General Hospital.

Miss F. L. MUTIMER (Matron, Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading), Principal Matron, 1st Southern General Hospital.

Miss M. POOL, R.R.C. (Matron, City Hospital, Edinburgh), Principal Matron, 6th Scottish General Hospital.

Miss H. F. SAUNDERS (Matron, University College Hospital), Principal Matron, 2nd London General Hospital.

Miss I. SWIFT (Matron, Torbay Hospital, Torquay), Principal Matron, 7th Southern General Hospital.

Miss S. H. VIAN (Matron, Royal United Hospital, Bath), Principal Matron, 4th Southern General Hospital.

The Dowager Lady Amphil, G.B.E., C.I., was in attendance.

ADOLESCENCE OF THE STUDENT NURSE.

Saint Mary's Hospital and the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Portsmouth are inviting applications for the appointment of Cadet Nurses (male and female). Applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 16½, they are required to attend at the hospital daily on 5½ days per week and "perform such duties as are considered necessary by the Medical Superintendent."

They may also be required to attend Evening Continuation Classes on certain evenings, to be prepared for the Test Education Examination, unless exempt therefrom by virtue of having passed a recognised equivalent examination.

On reaching the age of 17½, provided that they have attained the required educational standard, the Cadet Nurses will be eligible to train as probationer nurses, the course of training lasting 4 years at Saint Mary's Hospital and 2 years at the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

It will be seen, therefore, that six years' work is to be exacted from these young men and women for a general training, and three years for fever training. Surely the General Nursing Council will communicate with the City of Portsmouth, under whose authority these young people are to be trained, and inform this authority that under the Nurses' Registration Act the term of training is three years for general nurses, and two years for fever nurses.

But now the One Portal to the Register has been demolished by the G.N.C., we shall as a result have every public authority defining its own exploitive systems and terms of training—confusion worse confounded. If the General Nursing Council fails to act, who can blame the Trades Union Congress for taking action for the protection of these boys and girls?

Surely the age of adolescence is not the time for undue strain on the physique of student nurses, male or female. Perhaps the Medical Superintendent who is apparently assuming the usual prerogative of the matron in defining the nurses' duties, will pause to consider this vital matter at the period of life between puberty and maturity.

REAL NURSING.

We recently referred to the fine work being done by Miss Constance Fairhall, where she is running a leper and tuberculosis colony in Gemo Island off the Coast of Papua, near Port Moresby. She is alone on the Island, with ten lepers and ten tuberculosis cases, and sometimes finds it difficult to find amusement for them. She would be very grateful for gifts of school books and magazines from anyone kind enough to help her to amuse these poor patients. Miss Fairhall was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, we feel sure members of the Bart's League will be willing to help, so we have written to her to find out of what gifts she is most in need.

CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN INDIA.

On June 26th the Delhi correspondent of *The Times* reported that: "So far there have been 17,330 deaths in the cholera epidemic in the United Provinces and the Government's efforts to control it are seriously hampered by a shortage of doctors. The total number of cases reported is 35,000.

Even with voluntary medical aid from other provinces it has been found impossible to cope with the epidemic, and urgent appeals have been made to the Indian Medical Association for more doctors."

Deaths of foreigners in Spain and China apparently rouse warm indignation and sympathy in our midst but how about our own people in India? Is there a sufficient supply of trained nurses? The Press has been silent on this point.

THE PASSING BELL.

We regret to record the death on May 26th, 1938, from pneumonia, of Miss Mary Brown, Sister, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.

Miss Brown trained at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, and served with Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. in Palestine and England from 1918 to 1923.

Since this date she has from time to time served in Military Hospitals in Egypt and in England.

Our sincerest sympathy is extended to her relatives in their bereavement.

WORD FOR THE MONTH.

Freedom of the Human Soul.

"Democracy is a very awkward system in many ways, and it is difficult to work because it will not work unless every one does his duty; and I see very little prospect of that happening until we have the Kingdom of God on earth, and I do not think that is going to happen yet. Let us cultivate that brotherhood and individuality of every man and woman in this country, with freedom for its own development. To my mind freedom of the human soul is the essence of religion, and that is why I would fight for it in democracy. Of course, I do not think you can be a successful leader unless you have a genuine love of the people and a realisation of what the ordinary man or woman is and stands for. You may have that, and may still want to smack them at times all the same, because they may be very trying, bless them; but do not ever lose your faith in them—because they are as sound as a rock."

Earl Baldwin of Bewdley.

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