

became a Commander of the Order of the British Empire, while in 1931, her services were further recognised when she was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

Dame Joanna takes up her appointment at once.

Trained nurses who are interested in prison reform, knowing well the need there is for bringing the penal system up to date, in conformity with modern knowledge, will eagerly await the publication of the draft of the Bill shortly to be considered by the Home Secretary, which will, it is expected, revolutionise the British penal system. It is understood that Sir Samuel Hoare will examine the whole subject next month, and after he has consulted Home Office experts, and made his criticisms, will submit a revised draft of the Bill to the Cabinet. It is expected that the proposals incorporated in the Bill as finally agreed upon will follow to some extent the suggestions of the Departmental Committee on Persistent Offenders which reported in 1932.

It is hoped that a measure of penal reform may become law during 1938-1939. We hope that those concerned with drafting the forthcoming Bill have realised that the question of penal reform is one demanding the advice and assistance of medical psychologists as well as of criminologists.

Years ago we proposed to form the Elizabeth Fry League of Nurses, of those working in, or sincerely interested in, Prisons and Prisoners in England. As soon as time permits, might we not, in memory of Beatrice Kent, so recently lost to us, organise such a League? Nothing would have given her greater joy than to see such a League materialise.

Now that our Prison Nursing Service is making such invaluable progress, we need to come into touch with colleagues engaged in this beneficent national service. We need them represented on our National Council.

An anonymous gift of £5,000 to the Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, for the extension of the nurses' home, has been promised if a similar amount is raised by the end of the year.

Scraps from current issues of hospital archives are always interesting, and this applies to an article in the *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal* on "The Hospital Beer," by Sir D'Arcy Power, K.B.E., historian of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, who relates that in 1557 the brewer was instructed to supply "single beer for the poor, good wholesome drynke for man's bodie" at 2s. 4d. a barrel.

The Matron from quite early days enjoyed the privilege of keeping a cellar beneath her lodgings from which she sold a better drink at an estimated profit to herself of £40 a year. Scandals arose from time to time until the ancient perquisite was abolished by the following Order issued by Peter Joyce (who was Treasurer from 1703-21) and the Governors:

"Uppon complaint made that the Matron of this Hospital doth suffer great quantities of ale and beer and other liquors to be sold in a celler within this Hospitall to the patients and others contrary to her charge, And severall orders heretofore made to prevent

the same whereby the patients cures are hindered and occasions great scandall to this Hospitall It is thereupon ordered that the said matter be recomended to the Generall Court that the selling of any more liquors within this Hospitall for the future may be suppress.

"Curia Generalis tent Vicesimo die martii Anno 1706. The question being putt whether the Matron should be immediately suppress from selling any more ale and beere within this Hospitall It was carryed in the affirmative and the court did acquaint her therewith."

The order appears to have been complied with at once, for there is an entry dated April 28th, 1707, that the room over the cellar where the Matron sold beer and ale be made into a ward. The Treasurer said that he would pay himself for this new ward, and it was known as "*Treasurer's Ward*." The Matron who lost money by the abolition of her trade does not appear to have received any compensation.

A device to save hospital nurses unnecessary walking has just been installed, says a contemporary, with great success in a hospital in Germany. This is a small transmitter, placed by the patient's bed, which enables him to signal his wants and saves the nurse a journey to inquire why he has rung the bell.

The apparatus contains a circular dial on which are depicted a hot-water bottle, a newspaper, a sandwich, a glass and anything else that he is likely to require. The patient moves a switch, and a luminous signal appears in the nurse's room, telling her who is calling and what is wanted.

In this country a nurse on duty is usually in the ward, and therefore such an apparatus would only have a very limited use.

We cordially welcome the announcement in the July issue of the *New Zealand Nursing Journal* that "another epoch in the history of the *Nursing Journal* has come to pass with the June issue, marking the first of its monthly publications." It continues, "*Kai Tiaki* was first published in 1908, and to the late Miss Hester Maclean we owe a deep debt of gratitude, for it was she who, realising the value to nurses of such a journal, decided with her usual energy and skill to produce this journal. Not only did she produce it, but also took on the work of editor and undertook the full financial responsibility of publication.

"The publication was based upon an ideal of service to nurses, and through them to the public which they serve.

"In 1923 the Registered Nurses' Association took over the financial responsibility from Miss Maclean, but she continued as editor until her death in 1932. To her is due the high standard of the journal and the creditable place it takes among the nursing journals of the world."

To those public-spirited pioneer Nurses who, realising the supreme importance of a professional voice in the press, shouldered not only the laborious task of editing, but also the financial responsibility of publishing the journals they founded the nursing profession owes deep gratitude, and we are glad that the *New Zealand Nurses Journal* has placed on record the sense of obligation felt by the Nurses of that Dominion to Miss Hester Maclean.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)