

NURSING ECHOES.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to command that the College of Nursing shall be known as the Royal College of Nursing.

It is now 48 years since Queen Victoria granted the prefix Royal to the British Nurses' Association—the first nurses' organisation in the world.

The late Princess Christian was the first President of the R.B.N.A. until her death, when the Princess Arthur of Connaught consented to preside over its destinies!

The Annual Meeting of the Queen's Institute for District Nursing, was held on July 12th, at St. James's Palace, by permission of the King. The Earl of Athlone, President, presided.

Long service badges were presented to a number of Queen's Superintendents and Nurses by Mrs. Walter Elliot.

Lord Athlone said that a record number of Queen's Nurses were enrolled during 1938, but the demands for their services had also increased and many more were needed. The year had closed without a deficit, largely owing to the success of the National Gardens Scheme, by which the record sum of £15,000 had been raised.

Mr. Walter Elliot, Minister of Health, said that under the Government's evacuation scheme there was bound to be a heavy call on the services of midwives in reception areas and steps had already been taken to secure an adequate supply. The District Nurses would be assisted by nursing auxiliaries, now being recruited. Mr. Elliot appealed to nurses to help to persuade volunteers to come forward quickly and register under the war time blood transfusion scheme which is being run by the Medical Research Council.

Lady Minto moved a vote of thanks to the speakers, which was seconded by Lady Baldwin, who said the only man's job she had ever envied was that of the Minister of Health.

Some day we may perhaps see a Registered Nurse in the Ministry of Health—where expert nursing advice is sorely needed.

Messrs. Hurst and Blackett publish this month some experiences of Sister Catherine Black, M.B.E., R.R.C., who is now included as an old friend of the Royal Family, having nursed King George V from the first time he was seriously ill in 1928 until his fatal illness seven years later.

The work is entitled: "King's Nurse—Beggar's Nurse," as she has not only nursed Royalty, but many poor people in the London Hospital, where she received her training, also wounded soldiers during the Great War, natives in Australia, and the citizens of many other countries besides England.

We are pleased to note that at last *The Times* is saying a word in season on the training of volunteer nurses and the dissatisfaction with the organisation of war-time casualty services for London, and that the interests of the trained nurse have not been satisfac-

torily handled by the Central Emergency Committee appointed by the Minister of Health in December last. How could it be otherwise, when the nurses' organisations were denied representation on it? "It is felt among nurses," says *The Times*, "that a proper civilian nursing service should be formed, in which there should be no tactless confusion between the registered and the assistant nurse, in which the most striking badge would not be given to the inexperienced auxiliary, and in which an organisation and *esprit de corps* like that of other Civil Defence could be created."

We sincerely hope *The Times* will use its vast influence to obtain justice for the sick and wounded in this particular.

We have before us a pink application form issued by the Central Emergency Committee for the Nursing Profession, marked "Confidential," and in handwriting, "Form filled in by people of lower walks of life, e.g., Charwoman, etc."

The last instruction on this form is "I desire to be enrolled in the Civil Nursing Reserve as a Nursing Auxiliary and to undertake the necessary course of training." Comment is superfluous. We are not surprised that the Minister of Health "could not see his way" to place a representative of the National Council of Nurses on the Central Emergency Committee!

Viscount Mersey recently asked the question in the House of Lords, "Whether the Government intended to issue any statement to nurses and the domestic staffs of hospitals, asking them to remain at their jobs and not take other work in an emergency?"

Many Matrons of hospitals are seriously perturbed at the prospect of the domestic staff being accepted as auxiliary nurses by the Emergency Committee, at a salary of £2 a week and no cleaning to do.

Attached to the Agenda of the Twentieth Annual Meeting of the Association of Hospital Matrons, we note the following "Note—for your information."

The Executive Committee have their attention drawn to the increase in the number of candidates in uniform presenting themselves for the State Examination with obvious "make-up" and lipstick.

The Executive Committee would ask the co-operation of their members who are in charge of Training Schools, in representing to their staffs the unsuitability of obvious "make-up," including coloured nails, when in uniform, and especially when attending on the sick.

(Signed) R. COX-DAVIES,

Hon. Secretary.

It would be interesting to learn who drew the attention of the Executive of the Matrons' Association to this momentous matter. Does it emanate from the G.N.C. *in camera*? It certainly has not been discussed in Council. We wonder how many matrons will find courage to tackle this thorny question. Would it not be better for the G.N.C. to issue a ukase informing candidates for examination that "make-up" disqualifies candidates and that "coloured nails" will be brought to the block?

There is no doubt "obvious" make-up clashes with the uniform of a nurse and that painted nails are nasty,

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