

gratitude that we are still able to assure you that what has been accomplished makes us all the more eager to go ahead.

"Cheerio—is certainly the dominant note this year."

WILFRED T. GRENFELL.

#### REPORT.

The Report records that during the year the Executive have had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Albert Gould, an American member of the Board and one who has been connected with the work on the coast from very early days. They found it, also, most helpful to exchange views on the work in general and to discuss future plans for its development.

Mr. Odell, a member of the Council, who two years ago gave the Grenfell Association a wonderful lecture on "The Ascent of Nana Devi," has again been on the Mt. Everest Expedition this summer.

"There is a lure to far-away places on the earth's frontier which only those who have been there can fully understand. The epic of Everest unfolds the story of gallant mountaineers ever striving to be the first to place their foot on the roof of the world. The finest possible clothing is needed, and 'Grenfell' climbing suits and tents have equipped the British Expeditions of 1933, 1936 and 1938.

"On the 1933 Everest Expedition a 'Grenfell' tent formed the highest habitation ever made by man on this planet. F. S. Smythe slept in it for thirteen hours, and awoke refreshed, although scientists had predicted that any man sleeping in that altitude would never waken. It was pitched at Camp VI., 27,000 feet up, in a blizzard so fierce that Smythe had to crawl back to it on his hands and knees—a wind so strong that it blew the microscopic snow needles actually through the walls of the tents fixed at Camp V., 500 feet below—but they did not penetrate 'Grenfell Cloth.'"

#### The Appeal Committee.

The Appeal Committee was formed in July, 1936, under Mrs. Robin Garbutt, and her term of office expired in July, 1938. After recording their gratitude to Mrs. Garbutt for all she has done to make the first two years of the Committee such a success, the Executive report that Lady Allardyce has succeeded Mrs. Garbutt; and those of our readers who were present when Lady Allardyce, as a guest of the British College of Nurses, made such a brilliant, sympathetic and amusing speech will endorse the opinion expressed by the Executive of the Grenfell Association: "We are very fortunate in having her for our new Chairman."

#### A Summer at North-West River.

Those nurses who have the enterprise and the temperament to seek work off the beaten track usually find not only the pleasure that comes from knowing how deeply their services are needed, but also from their new experiences. Thus Miss Helen Bayard writes:—

"My summer in Labrador is certainly being a very happy and interesting experience. North West River is one of the most beautiful places imaginable. From the Hospital windows we look across the river to a range of mountains. Sometimes they are hidden by mist, but on clear days their colouring is wonderful, and varies from lightest blue to deep purple. Behind the Hospital are woods of spruce and fir trees; just now the Labrador laurel is in bloom, and its pink flowers look specially lovely in the grey reindeer moss.

"Work in the Hospital is very pleasant. I am the only trained nurse, but have a local girl to assist me who is hoping to go for training to the United States in the near future. I have also had a certain amount of district nursing to do, and this I enjoy very much, especially if the patient happens to live over the river and I have a little

boat trip to get across for my visit. I find the people very friendly and easy to work amongst.

"People who have the idea that life must be dull and monotonous up here are quite mistaken. There is always so much to do, that time passes too quickly. Besides nursing there are many side-lines, such as gardening, canning milk, berries, etc., for the winter. Then there are often boats coming and going which all make for excitement. Dr. Curtis came up here on the *Maraval* and stayed a couple of days; the *Kyle* called here from St. John's with some tourists; the *Chuett* (Mission supply boat) stayed two days and brought a whole year's supply of food, medical stores, etc., and we had a very busy time then getting all the things stored away and listed.

"I don't imagine that life will be lonely even in the winter, as the school-teachers live at the Hospital, and at Dr. and Mrs. Paddon's house one is always sure of a welcome and a pleasant evening or break in the day for tea. I am thoroughly looking forward to the winter and all the excitement of the snow and the komatik trips and the Northern Lights. It all seems too good to leave before I have seen a year round, and I feel I am fortunate to have the opportunity of working in such beautiful surroundings and under such happy conditions."

## PROTECTION OF HOSPITALS AGAINST AIR RAIDS.

### ADVICE TO AUTHORITIES.

A booklet containing advice on the structural and other precautions which can be taken against air raid risks in hospitals has been issued jointly by the Ministry of Health and the Department of Health for Scotland to all Local Authorities controlling hospitals and also to voluntary hospitals. It is published by H.M. Stationery Office, price 3d. net.

Hospital authorities are urged to proceed at once with the recommended precautions, though the extent to which they do so must depend to some extent on the likelihood of air attack over the area in which the hospital is situated. It is stated that the Government is prepared to contribute towards the cost under certain conditions.

Measures for the adaptation of existing buildings and structural features to be incorporated in plans for new buildings are described in the booklet.

### PROTECTION AGAINST BLAST AND SPLINTERS

It is pointed out that it is not practicable to provide hospital buildings which would resist a direct hit from a high explosive bomb or the blast effects of such a bomb falling very close to them. Some protection can be given, however, against the blast effects and splinters of high explosive bombs falling 50 feet or more from the building and against small incendiary bombs and splinters of anti-aircraft shells.

Existing hospital buildings can be given protection by sandbagging door and window openings on the ground floor.

The shattering of some window glass will be inevitable, but danger from flying fragments of glass can be minimised by gumming cellophane on the panes or by fixing small mesh wire netting on the inside of the window. Special steps should be taken to safeguard operating theatres or where necessary to fit up emergency theatres in the safer part of the building.

Casualties contaminated with gas must not be allowed direct admission to hospitals, and temporary shelters are to be provided outside hospitals where contaminated clothing can be removed. Shelters constructed by strengthening basements or in the form of trenches or arched steel refuges in the grounds may be useful for such of the staff as are not on duty at the time of the raid and for walking patients.

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