

Christmas it will add immeasurably to their undeserved punishment.

It is good to learn that the Red Cross and St. John Prisoners-of-War Department is now dispatching Christmas food parcels to all British prisoners of war. Their contents sound so tempting: chicken, spiced beef, chocolate, Christmas puddings, cake, cigarettes and other seasonable articles, that it is to be hoped they will be delivered. Enemy prisoners in this generous old country will be treated *en prince* on Christmas Day, we have no doubt.

A leaflet has been issued by the General Post Office entitled "Communications with Prisoners of War interned abroad." Copies may be obtained from all principal post offices.

The German Press states that whereas Germany had about half a million foreign labourers before the war, she now has over a million civilian prisoners and another million prisoners of war used as labourers. More than a third of the civilian prisoners are Poles.

Mussolini's flying sons, Vittorio and Bruno, took part in a most murderous raid at Salonika, and slaughtered 200 civilians, many of them women and children. It will be remembered how in a personal record, they gloated over the murder from the air, of defenceless Abyssinians.

THE CHRISTMAS CALENDAR IN WAR TIME.

Christmas is drawing near and we are pleased to find that, despite the difficulties attendant upon its production, Miss Isabel Macdonald has again brought out her Christmas Calendar with its beneficent purpose of sending, to about 200 aged and sick nurses, cheques to secure for them comfort and cheer at Christmastide. Many have said that the arrival of the now familiar envelope at once takes off, in a wonderful way, their feelings of loneliness, and they write of what it means to them to be remembered at this season by so many of their colleagues. But others, those who buy the calendar, write of spiritual gifts when it brings to them, day by day, the inspiring thoughts of those gifted ones who are quoted.

This year the calendar is entitled "A Garland from Browning," and here are interwoven many flowers from the mind of one of the greatest of all mystical poets. But Robert Browning was a seer as well as a mystic, and it is wonderful to find how often he opens windows that we too may see the light of the spirit. Yet like all the greatest of the mystics his feet are metaphorically always firmly placed on the earth.

Miss Macdonald states that she hesitated to commence the work this year for the manuscript has to be placed in the hands of the printers in July. However, she "picked up her courage" on remembering two facts. Firstly, there is the great sympathy that nurses always show towards those of their colleagues who are aged or have "fallen by the way," and, secondly, there are many among the older nurses to whom the Calendar's cheque is the only gift they can look forward to at Christmas-time.

The cost of the calendar has had to be increased; it will be 1s. 9d. instead of 1s. 6d. as formerly, and can be obtained from 194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

The President wishes to offer her warmest thanks to Fellows and Members for so promptly and generously sending their subscriptions for 1939-1940 to the office of the College. Their financial support is indispensable if the good work is to go on, as all investments are precarious in war time, and all rates, taxes, light, heat, telephone, and every item used has risen in price.

We are indeed thankful that so far, with demolition and destruction all around, very little damage has touched our beautiful headquarters at 19, Queen's Gate, Kensington, and the President invites Fellows and Members to pray God to protect it and the special work it has in hand for the liberty and self-expression of the Nursing Profession. The British College of Nurses stands very specially for the great principles for which our dear country will fight to a finish.

A MEMBER IN IOWA.

A Member in Davenport, Iowa, U.S.A., writes to the President:—

"You have been in my mind these months past, and when I hear that another hospital in England has been bombed then my thoughts are with you all; and what can one say in these days except that the news is heartening, and the brave young pilots who are doing such magnificent work beyond praise?

"I listen each evening to the news broadcast, 'Britain speaks,' and enjoy hearing the voices of the courageous men, women and children who are cheerful in spite of all they have faced and suffered!

"It only seems a day since we were in London enjoying the hospitality of the English people. How calm and peaceful the lovely country side on my way to Edinburgh and Bournemouth. I can hardly believe that Dover is being bombed daily.

"Well, let us hope that conditions will soon be favourable for the British Empire and all her splendid people. This brings you my kind thoughts and good wishes."

Such letters are very comforting and greatly valued. Every day brings victory for right one step nearer. Uphill work in a pusillanimous age, but what a glorious view from the summit. We hope we see the sun rise!

OBITUARY.

Miss Lily Cole, S.R.N., M.B.C.N.

It is with very deep regret that we have to report the death of Miss Lily Cole as the result of an air raid. Miss Cole was trained at Lowestoft and North Suffolk Hospital, and was afterwards Sister at Fulham Hospital, Hammersmith, and at St. Stephen's Hospital for a number of years, until a severe illness brought her professional life to a close. Her charming, gentle and sympathetic personality won for her many friends both in the hospital and outside its gates. She was an active member both of the Royal British Nurses' Association and of the British College of Nurses, and took a clear-sighted attitude towards everything that concerned her profession and its well-being; indeed, her interest in it never abated, and often she wrote from her sick-room on topics of interest to nurses at the time. Much sympathy for her was felt in her suffering and helplessness, and indeed that last was the harder to bear, so far as she herself was concerned. Earnestness always seemed to us to be Miss Cole's most outstanding characteristic and one that led her colleagues to hold her in very high regard. We mourn the cruel circumstances of her death, but she would pass across the threshold with the courage that accompanied her through life; it is but the garment that her spirit used for an

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