

" LEAGUE NEWS."

League News, the organ of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, is a very imposing issue, as, added to the interesting information, it contains the list of names and addresses of 1,677 members, and the balance of income over expenditure is substantial.

Naturally the members are gratified that the King has appointed Miss K. H. Jones, R.R.C., a member of the League, Matron-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, and in congratulating Miss Jones, *League News* states:—

In offering congratulations to Miss Jones on her appointment as Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S., our sincere thanks are also conveyed for her great kindness in sending the following letter when, as Senior Principal Matron of the B.E.F. in France, she had shared in the experiences which ended in the "Epic of Dunkirk":—

"Dear Editor,

"I feel it will interest your readers to hear of the safe return of all the Nursing Members of the B.E.F., including 100 or so amongst them who trained at Bart's.

"Our experiences in France were very varied, ranging from periods of complete inactivity at times for some Sisters, whilst others were working at high pressure in the Casualty Clearing Stations, dealing entirely with sickness and accidents.

"I think the best way for me to give a survey of the whole work will be by giving some quotations from letters which I have received from Officers Commanding, Matrons, and Sisters-in-Charge, since the evacuation.

"O.C. Ambulance Train:

"A more efficient, hard working, tactful and willing team of Sisters you cannot imagine or hope for. They were beyond all written words of praise. They all worked unmindful of their own comfort or rest, and they had much increased nursing duties. Several times we were in raids and machine gun attacks and they all behaved with bravery and coolness which was an example to us all.

"Matron, General Hospital:

"I shall never cease to be grateful to my staff for their great courage.

"Sister i/c C.C.S.:

"They were all simply splendid and I could ask for nothing better than that they might work with me again."

"Sister i/c C.C.S.:

"We had terrible experiences. The staff worked wonderfully well and never spared themselves, nor did they show any signs of panic even at our most terrible moments."

"Sister i/c Ambulance Train:

"It was a bitter blow to have to leave our post of duty and also our R.A.M.C. personnel, at such a time of danger and when we found we could be of such help to the wounded. We are most anxiously awaiting the recall to any kind of duty that may be given to us and we wish to assure you of our faithful service in whatever bad times are before us."

"I think after reading these few extracts you will realise that no words of mine can express more plainly my pride in the work of the B.E.F. than those of another Commanding Officer of a 1,200-bedded General Hospital, who wrote: 'You must indeed be proud of being No. 1 of such a grand Service.'

"The spirit and courage of the Trained Nurses of Britain, and the Colonies, when the final test came to the B.E.F., was of such a high level that I feel convinced this same spirit will be found 100 per cent. in the peoples of this country when and if the great test of courage and endurance comes to them.

"July 11th, 1940."

OBITUARY.

Alas! The League has lost many shining lights during the year, and the obituaries of dear Margaret Breay and Margaret Huxley, which appeared in this Journal, are published by permission *in extenso*.

Miss E. L. Gibson, in South Africa, Mrs. E. A. Cowan, attached for many years to the Universities Mission in Central Africa, and Miss Hilda Hawes, lived and worked as an example to her fellows. Phyllis Lofts writes of her: "She graced her profession, and leaves a memory rich in affection. She reminds me of the resolution of St. Augustine: 'To my fellowmen, a heart of love; to my God, a heart of flame; to myself, a heart of steel.'"

MARRIAGES.

Twenty-one marriages of members are reported, in many parts of the world. We note these with pleasure. Good nurses, good wives and mothers.

We congratulate the Editors, and numerous workers who combine to make our *News* vastly interesting and informative.

THE DEATH OF MR. WALTER GEORGE SPENCER, F.R.C.S.

The death of Mr. Walter George Spencer, the distinguished surgeon, will arouse sincere grief in the hearts of many nurses, who knew him not only in his professional capacity, but as a dear friend who valued their co-operation in his noble work for humanity. Mr. Spencer was educated at Weymouth College, and at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C., and later was elected to the staff of the Westminster Hospital, which owed him sincere gratitude for his loyal and devoted service for many years, and of which at the time of his death he was vice-president, consultant surgeon, and historian. He was vice-president of the Royal College of Surgeons, and a member of the Court of Examiners, and also examined in surgery at the Universities of London and Manchester. Mr. Spencer's interest in nursing can be well understood. He married one of the most distinguished Sisters at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Miss Elizabeth Charlton, whose devotion to its interests during the many years' struggle for State Registration never faltered, and many meetings in its support were held in their fine house in Portland Place.

The Editor of this Journal received much encouragement from Mr. Spencer in her half-century of journalistic work, as he read it from cover to cover as he said "with pleasure and profit."

All our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Spencer in her irreparable loss; but half a century of perfect marriage with a beloved companion is the happy lot of few women, and memory can hold nothing but gratitude for such a sweet and blessed time.—E. G. F.

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