

NURSING ECHOES.

In this last issue of the year good wishes for "A Merry Christmas" have usually gone forth, but to be merry in this time of tragedy is somehow out of tune, so many lonely, grief-stricken people are around. The loss of "only sons" so often recorded, dear husbands, fathers, brothers, lovers, merriment amongst those who have escaped, these sorrows so far, would strike a discordant note.

We, therefore, wish to all our readers that serenity of mind and cheerful spirit born of sympathy with others so that hope may radiate their environment, free from depression and despair.

A Happy Christmas, therefore, to all whose sympathies are warm and helpful to those in sorrow and despair.

His Majesty the King has now approved the models for the George Cross and Medal, honourable recognition, which he recently instituted for lay men and women whose valour in serving their country has been of the highest order.

The Cross is a plain silver cross with four equal limbs. In the centre a circular medallion bears the design of St. George and the Dragon, from the reverses of the gold coinage. The inscription "For Gallantry" appears round the design. In the angle of each limb are the letters G V I, forming a circle concentric with the medallion. The reverse of the Cross is plain and will bear the name of the recipient and the date of the award.

The Cross has been modelled by Mr. Percy Metcalfe, C.V.O., R.D.I.

The ribbon is dark blue threaded through a bar adorned with laurel leaves from which the Cross is suspended by a ring.

The Medal is circular in form, 1.42 in. in diameter, and is struck in silver. Its obverse bears the crowned effigy of his Majesty surrounded by the inscription "GEORGIUS VI D.G.Br. OMN. REX ET INDIAE IMP." and is thus identical with that of service medals in general.

The reverse depicts St. George slaying the Dragon on the coast of England, and was modelled and adapted by Mr. George Kruger Gray, C.B.E., A.R.C.A., F.S.A., after the bookplate designed by Mr. Stephen Gooden, A.R.A., for the Royal Library, Windsor Castle. The design is circumscribed by the words "The George

Medal." The ribbon is red with five narrow vertical stripes of blue.

Neither the Cross nor the Medal may be reproduced in any form without authority.

We feel sure that the courage and devotion of our nurses during air raids on hospitals, through which the lives of many patients have been saved, will meet with the recognition they deserve, and in a recent list of awards of the George Medal, we are pleased to note that Miss Violet Eleanor Reid, a junior nurse at a mental hospital is one of 15 people awarded this honour for conspicuous bravery during air raids.

Five explosive bombs were dropped in the hospital grounds. One hit the edge of the kitchen roof of the female block in which 82 patients were housed. The explosion caused six casualties, four of them slight. The other two were Nurse Reid and a colleague, who were more seriously injured.

In spite of wounds, loss of blood, and deafness caused by the explosion, Nurse Reid attended the patients and her injured colleague. She carried the nurse upstairs and attended her until a doctor arrived. She then returned and looked after the patients.

By her cool and cheerful conduct, says the London Gazette announcement, she prevented the confusion among the

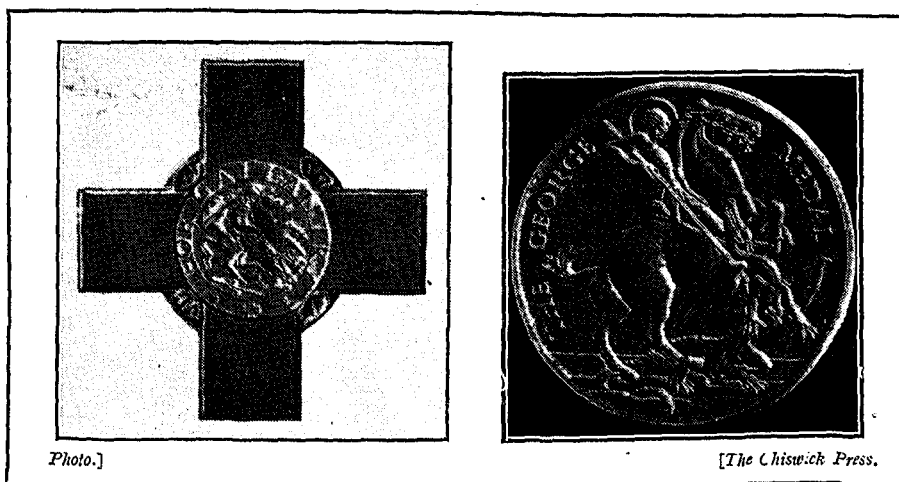
mental patients from developing into what might readily have become a panic.

Her Majesty Queen Mary has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of 133 Queen's Nurses for service—97 in England, 7 in Wales, 28 in Scotland, and one in Northern Ireland, the appointment to date from October 1st, 1940.

The recent death of Mr. J. J. Crosfield, of Embley Park, Hants, who so generously shared his association with Miss Florence Nightingale (whose home it was in the last century) with the Nursing Profession, was a rich man whose benefactions in life were manifold, left personal estate valued at £646,893.

We are glad to note that Lord Horder is energetically tackling the organisation of the Shelter Problem, from the health point of view, which we all know is still in need of drastic reform.

Lord Horder, who was called in to advise the Government, says we are not yet within sight of solving the



THE GEORGE CROSS.

THE GEORGE MEDAL.

previous page

next page