

in 1926, Margaret Breay was offered and accepted the office of Resident First Vice-President, a position held till death. Her generous support of its numerous activities secured many advantages for fellow members, with whom her relations were intimately personal and mutually valued. She was awarded its Gold Medal.

**"The British Journal of Nursing."**

For 40 years the first love of Margaret Breay was her work for THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING—for its ethical supremacy she strove heart and soul. The 87 bound volumes remain evidence of her untiring devotion to principle, as apart from financial exploitation and consequent demoralization.

**Statutory Education and State Registration of Nurses.**

The most far-reaching work in which Margaret Breay played an ardent part was her participation in the thirty years' struggle for the emancipation and organisation of the Nursing Profession through statutory education and State Registration. She helped to draft the first Bill for the Registration of Nurses presented to Parliament in 1904 by the Society for State Registration of Nurses, of which she was a member; and until the Government Act for this reform was placed on the Statute Book, in 1919, her advocacy was ceaseless, and, indeed, seated at the Editorial table, she saw the sun rise many a time.

In this connection, she enjoyed many "purple patches," notably in 1919, when she listened to the third readings and acceptance in the "Commons," of the Nurses' Registration Bills for England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, and when seated on the "Crimson Benches" in the "Lords," she listened to the Clerk at the Table announce "Le Roy le Veult" in reference to the Nurses' Registration Acts. Again, in 1923, she was greatly moved when she handled the first bound issue of the Register of Nurses, in its crimson cover, and found therein her own name inscribed.

**The Community of Saints.**

In all ages there have been saintly women, with divine vision and indestructible spirit, who have been canonised and adored. Of such a community would have been Margaret Breay in a less material age.

**God's Chivalry.**

She bore her long and trying ill-health with all its restrictions with a resignation which caused one to marvel with tearless heartache. Her patience and gratitude won the affection and devotion of her nurses. "The ruling passion is strong in death." Her ruling virtues stood her in good stead in the last testing months of her life. Those who ministered to her told how on the outbreak of war she refused a fire—"it was taking it from the soldiers." Though on a vexatious restriction of diet, she refused a small relaxation for the same reason, with difficulty she articulated, "not necessary." The basis of this shining character is to be traced to her profound, sincere religion, only her Lord knew with what weariness and painfulness she accomplished the reception of her Communion.

"A good and faithful servant," we cannot doubt her Lord's "Well Done."

*Rest after toil,  
After pain ease,  
Port after stormy seas,  
Doth greatly please.*

ETHEL BEDFORD FENWICK.

## NURSING ECHOES.

**BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE HONOURED.**

The honour of a Royal Christmas card has been reserved for each member of the British Expeditionary Force serving in France. This card presents portraits of the King and Queen, inscribed by His Majesty:

"With our best wishes for Christmas, 1939.

May God bless you and protect you."

Signed, ELIZABETH R., GEORGE R.I.

This memento will, we have no doubt, be valued and carefully preserved by all recipients.

His Majesty in honouring the fighting forces, has the warm approval of his people—only those risking their lives on sea, land and in the air, should be qualified for recognition during the war.

Queen Mary has sent a special Christmas donation of £10 to each of the following: The Artists' General Benevolent Institution, Dr. Barnardo's Homes, The British Sailors' Society, The Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy, The Central Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, The Girls' Friendly Society, King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, The National Institute for the Blind, The Professional Classes' Aid Council, The Royal General Theatrical Fund, The Railway Convalescent Homes, St. Matthew's Mission of the Good Shepherd, The Winter Distress League.

Except for visits of only a few hours to see the King and Queen, Queen Mary has been away from London since the beginning of August. She is now staying with her niece, the Duchess of Beaufort, at Badminton Park, Gloucestershire.

She has stayed there frequently before, but generally for only a few days. Her present visit, we gather, is likely to be of longer duration. She is greatly missed in London.

The troops from Canada and Australia, already safely landed in England, of course received a very warm welcome. We nurses well remember the wonderful exploits in the Great War of the Dominions' fighting men, and coming as they do from really free, well-fed countries, their spirit and stamina are indeed great assets.

Nurses in the Dominions are anxious to give a helping hand, especially to their own countrymen, and are being selected and made ready to cross the seas at an early date. At present the Western front in France is happily provided with highly trained Registered Nurses under the direction of very able Matrons, but should a real offensive become active, there will, we fear, be work for many skilled nurses; in the meanwhile everything is being well organised.

The Earl of Athlone, the President of the Queen's Institute, draws attention to the National Gardens scheme through which thousands of pounds are annually raised in support of the Institute. He states that the National Gardens Committee has decided to organise the scheme in 1940, though there must necessarily be

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