

some modification of the arrangements. It is felt that the peace and charm of a garden will be specially valued at a time when the world is so full of strife and ugliness.

As President the Earl of Athlone is deeply concerned with the financial side. He reminds us that the Queen's Institute and the nursing associations are largely responsible for the home nursing of the civilian population, and the money raised by the opening of the gardens will be more than ever needed for this work.

The Home Secretary stated, in reply to a question in the "House": That the number of trained and partially trained refugee nurses, respectively, now resident in Great Britain, and the number of those allowed to be employed in nursing work, was about 180 trained and 840 partially trained refugee nurses in the United Kingdom. All of them are at present engaged in nursing work. Now that we are at war with Germany, it is to be hoped that her nationals are under careful supervision, as it has been ascertained that many so-called refugees were sent into this country for ulterior purposes. We know of British girls who will not train in hospitals where Germans are admitted on equal terms, now that their nationals are killing their brothers and lovers—and we know of patients who also resent being nursed by those who have unfortunately become enemy aliens. Human nature being what it is, it is to be hoped that steps will be taken to consider the feelings of British patients.

Among the activities of the Central Association for Mental Welfare is the maintenance of five Seaside Holiday Homes—at Bognor Regis, Redcar, Rhyl, Seaford, and Weston-super-Mare—where parties of patients from mental hospitals and institutions for defectives as well as children from occupation centres and special schools are sent. The particular type of handicap from which they suffer makes them ineligible for any other holiday scheme, and many who come to these Homes are friendless persons who have not been outside the bounds of a hospital or institution for 20 or 30 years. The great improvement shown in their mental and physical health after such a holiday is continually drawing observation from the medical officers of the areas from which the visitors come.

Parties of patients are limited to about 30 persons, which makes it possible for the individuality of each member to be understood and taken into account. They are all the time under the supervision of a specially trained staff.

We all know and admire the fine work of Miss Elizabeth L. Smellie, C.B.E., R.R.C., who has attended many meetings in England and we have read with pleasure the following announcement in the *Canadian Nurse* under the heading "Setting a Precedent."

"For the first time in its history the American Public Health Association has elected a woman to the high office of First Vice-President. The woman thus honoured is an outstanding Canadian nurse, Elizabeth Smellie, C.B.E., R.R.C., chief superintendent of the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada, and first vice-president of the Canadian Nurses' Association."

There is always up-to-date items of news in *The Bulletin*, published by the American Nurses' Association, and we quote with pleasure the warning of the College of Surgeons about subsidiary workers as follows:—

"Two thousand three hundred and seventy-one hospitals out of 3,564 having 25 or more beds, have met the minimum standards for hospitals set up by the American College of Surgeons, and are included on its list of Approved Hospitals. Three hundred and forty-nine have been provisionally approved.

"The survey, which is contained in the Approval Number of the *Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons* (October, 1939), is elaborated by a discussion of the services within the hospitals. Of the nursing service it is said:—

"A trend is still noted toward supplementation of the graduate nursing staff with personnel known as aids, attendants, subsidiary workers, or assistants to nurses. This practice is most common in hospitals that have discontinued their training schools for nurses. In some instances a certain amount of practical training and limited class-room instruction is given these employees, following which they are permitted to assist in the operating room and in bedside nursing. This is a dangerous practice, wholly foreign to the spirit and the letter of the Minimum Standard for Nursing Services as stated in the *Manual of Hospital Standardisation*. Aids or subsidiary workers of any kind should confine their activities to non-professional duties."

Unfortunately in this country the leading medical organisations are in favour of semi-trained nurses and are supporting Government Committees, the Royal College of Nursing, and the General Nursing Council in depreciating the status attained by Registered Nurses during the past 20 years, by recognising Assistant Nurses, an inexcusable policy against which nurses grouped in progressive organisations are at last publicly protesting.

GOD KNOWS.

The origin of the quotation with which the King ended his Christmas Day broadcast to the Empire was unknown to His Majesty, and literary experts throughout the world sought in vain to discover it.

The lines were written by Miss M. L. Haskins, novelist and poet, and occur in a collection of short poems called "The Desert," which she wrote before the war of 1914-18, and printed privately in aid of an Indian charity. The poem containing the quotation is called "God Knows."

The lines quoted by the King and those following were:

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown!"*

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put thine hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to thee better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth and finding the Hand of God trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

So hark be still:

What need our little life

Our human life to know,

If God hath comprehension?

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