

Mr. Ernest Brown, in a written answer on April 18th, said: On March 4th there were registered at local offices 237 wholly unemployed men and 993 wholly unemployed women for employment as nurses, of whom 54 men and 310 women were in the London area. I am unable to say without special inquiry how many of these were fully-trained nurses.

The truth is that nursing statistics are not available from any Government Department. This is not surprising as there is no Registered Nurse in Office responsible to the nation for this skilled and indispensable profession of upwards of 100,000 Registered Nurses, and when their education, status and economic value is under discussion, the ignorance of the junior highly paid officials who discuss their affairs—and help to make laws to which they are compelled to submit—is inexcusable and much to be deplored.

When the Ministry of Health is reorganised, a Nursing Department under the direction of a Registered Nurse must be appointed—to correspond with the Medical Department which for years has proved invaluable in the maintenance of ever-progressing standards of national health.

The late Miss D. E. Bannon, C.B.E., S.R.N., the late Matron-in-Chief, London County Council, who was responsible for the administration of the world's largest nursing service, left £3,350 (net £529).

We believe Miss Bannon received an annual salary of £1,250.

We have been awaiting the appointment of a Matron-in-Chief by the London County Council in the place of the late Miss D. E. Bannon.

It now appears that the L.C.C. has decided not to fill this appointment during the War. Instead, Miss R.

Dreyer, a Principal Matron, is to be Principal Matron-in-Charge at her present salary of £800 with an additional £100 as a special allowance.

Thus some £350 per annum will be saved on the salary of Acting Matron-in-Chief.

We presume that male officials, all very highly paid, are also being called upon when occasion arises to help the country in like manner.

Her Majesty Queen Mary has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of 112 Queen's Nurses for service—77 in England, 5 in Wales, 28 in Scotland, and 2 in Ireland, the appointment to date from April 1st, 1940.

The Central Office of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing returned to London on April 17th and 18th, to 57, Lower Belgrave Street, London, S.W.1, from temporary offices in the country, to which it removed on the outbreak of war.

The Nurses' Missionary League held its Annual Meeting on May 9th, in the Caxton Hall, Westminster. W. McAdam Eccles, Esq., M.S., F.R.C.S., presided at the Afternoon Session, and Miss J. Macfee, B.A., in the Evening. All nurses were warmly invited to attend.

The League announces a Holiday for Nurses at the Knowle Links Hotel, Newquay, Cornwall, from June 14th to 28th. All nurses warmly invited, where they will find a comfortable hotel in its own grounds, lovely scenery, bathing, excursions, tennis, golf, companionship, rest and recreation, informal meetings (optional) for prayer and discussion. Terms: double-bedded rooms £2 2s., single £3. Further information from Miss Topping, 3, St. Augustine's Mansions, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1. These holidays are proverbial for the happy spirit which animates them.



Photo :]  
PRINCESS ELIZABETH AND PRINCESS MARGARET ROSE.  
Portrait to commemorate the fourteenth birthday of the elder Princess,  
April 21st, 1940.

[Marcus Adams.]

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