

MR. GREGORY MACDONALD'S SPEECH.

Mr. Macdonald described the growth of the Polish Relief Fund, under the Chairmanship of Lord Moyne, from its first beginnings under the auspices of the Anglo-Polish Society on September 1st, 1939.

No attempt could be made to help the Poles inside Poland, but the need was very great in the adjacent countries, Roumania, Hungary and Lithuania, where refugees fled during the campaign and after. The Society of Friends had been most helpful in assisting the Polish Relief Fund with workers in Hungary and in Roumania, and the British workers were always co-operating with relief work undertaken by the Governments and people of those countries, or with the Holy See, the Americans, Argentines and others.

On the whole, Mr. Macdonald thought that the refugee problem in Roumania had been adequately met, and there was great work being done in Hungary where club-rooms were established in the refugee camps and where hostels were being formed. Something was even being done for the higher education of students who had taken refuge in Hungary.

The greatest distress of all was to be found in Lithuania, where the winter had been excessively cold and where Russian or German influence was detrimental to work done for the Poles. Nevertheless, the Polish Relief Fund had done everything possible in that country, working through refugee committees and in association with the various diplomatic representatives.

In Paris also the Polish Relief Fund had set up an office and workrooms for cutting out clothes; and assistance had been given to various activities, such as the Anglo-Polish Hostel and the Polish Red Cross.

In England the responsibilities of the Fund exceeded over £300 per week, but the Fund was grateful for the assistance that was given by the British Government, which had contributed £100,000 worth of clothing and other forms of relief for the refugees in Europe, and to the British Council, which was actively interested in the problems of education.

Mr. Macdonald concluded by outlining the history of the Canadian-Polish ambulance, under Miss Patt Tuckett and Sister Oakley Williams, a description of which was given in the last issue of the Journal. He thanked the British College of Nurses for the great interest they had always taken both in the Relief Fund and in the Ambulance Unit, and he ended on the encouraging note that, great as the needs of the Polish Relief Fund necessarily were, the sum of £90,000 had already been collected.

After thanking Mr. Macdonald for sparing time to visit the College and for his very interesting address, those present desired that their sincere regrets at her inability to attend should be conveyed to Miss. Patt Tuckett, with hopes for her speedy recovery.

"THE STAR WHOSE LIGHT WE FOLLOW."

Early on the morning of May 1st the headquarters in London of the Polish Relief Fund, 10, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1, was the goal to which friends made their way to bid "*Au revoir*" to their colleagues who left London on a mission overseas. The Canadian-Polish Unit was setting out on the first stage of its journey to France (and, let us hope later, to Poland), there to bring skilled care to sick and wounded members of the Polish military contingent associated with the French Army in the front line.

There was quiet, earnest dignity in the bearing of the members, and they were evidently fully alive to the responsibilities that lay before them in whichever sphere their duty called them to serve. Professor Tancred Borenius (the Hon. Secretary-General of the Polish Relief Fund),

wished the Unit God-speed, and reminded them that their activities would be followed with the sincerest interest by those left in England, and he knew they would all pull loyally together.

Mr. Young, a member of the Canadian Red Cross, also wished the Unit good fortune on its journey, and guided the thoughts of those present to the gallant Canadian lady who was to have left in charge of the Unit, but who, through illness, was under medical care for the time being. Two splendid ambulances then drew up to the door, and Mr. Gregory Macdonald (the enthusiastic Secretary to the Fund), issued last instructions to Sister Oakley Williams, now in charge of the Unit, and the members took their places in the ambulances.

A bunch of white heather tied with ribbon red, white and blue, which is to take a permanent place in the ambulance, was handed to Sister Oakley Williams from the British College of Nurses, of which she has been a loyal Fellow since its inception. She was also handed a letter of introduction from the President to Mlle. de Joannis (the President of the National Association of Trained Nurses of France), inviting her kind interest in the work of the Unit, which we feel can be relied upon.

The ambulances moved off under the capable guidance of the neatly uniformed women drivers, Miss Sylvia Crowe and Miss E. Hall.

A youthful member of the party was Miss Beatrice Fergusson, who also is a skilled *chauffeuse*, and whose linguistic ability will be a great asset. Her mother and father, and her sister (in the uniform of the Royal Air Force), took part in the ceremony of farewell. This group is being eagerly awaited in France by a band of trained Polish nurses, who together will proceed to carry comfort and healing to compatriots stricken at the Front, side by side with their French allies.

A special message of thanks from Professor Tancred Borenius and Mr. Gregory Macdonald was sent to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick for the great interest taken and invaluable help given by her to the Canadian Polish Ambulance Unit.

'The faith our fathers fought for,
The kings our fathers knew,
We fight but as they fought for;
We seek the goal they fought for,
The chance they hailed and knew,
The praise they strove and wrought for,
To leave their blood as dew
On fields that flower anew.

Our name the night may swallow,
Our lands the churl may take;
But night nor death may swallow,
Nor hell's nor heaven's dim hollow,
The star whose height we take,
The star whose light we follow
For faith's unfaltering sake
Till hope that sleeps awake."

A. C. Swinburne.

THE MARTYRED COUNTRIES.

Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Finland, Denmark, and Norway. Alas! all lands of martyrdom. Colleagues resident in all these once happy lands have been much in our minds during the past weeks.

Senior and best beloved of Scandinavian nurses, Miss Bergljot Larsson, known as "The Nightingale of the North," will, we feel sure, be taking a leading part in the amelioration of stricken Norway, but no news of her has come through during the past weeks of sorrow.

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