

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Temporary Headquarters; 310, Cedar Street, New Haven, Connecticut, U.S.A.

December, 1940.

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,

It is hard to write a Christmas letter this year when peace and good will seem to have been forgotten, but between us international nurses love and trust are stronger and firmer than ever, and we know that out of all this chaos God will find a way.

In the meanwhile, may we "dare to think our humanity as something so sublimely precious that it is worthy of being made an offering to God; . . . and then go out to the pleasures and duties of our lives, having been truly born anew into His Divinity as He was born into our humanity on Christmas Day."

The time assuredly will come when we will realise that the struggle fought at such a cost will not have been in vain, and some way or other, from some unexpected sources, the dawn of better times will rise from out the mist which has blurred our vision during these devastating months.

"And not by eastern windows only

When daylight comes, comes in the light,
In front, the sun climbs slow, how slowly,
But westward, look, the land is bright."

Your devoted Colleagues,
EFFIE J. TAYLOR, *President.*
CALISTA F. BANWARTH,
Acting Executive Secretary.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The thanks of our National Council are offered to our International President for her enthusiastic letter. The time may come when the nurses of the world will again meet in amity, but it will need a new generation to restore universal solidarity throughout the nursing world, and that will need courage and a deep sense of honour upon the part of our profession throughout the world. The British nurses are alone in the front ranks of the struggle for justice; sacrificing life for duty. Their position is to be envied by colleagues unable to follow their glorious example.

The following greetings have been received at the Headquarters of our National Council of Nurses, for which we return thanks:—

"The President and members of the Overseas Nursing Sisters' Association (Nursing Sisters, Great War, 1914-1918) extend hearty greetings and best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year."

"The President and members of the Board of Management of the Association of Registered Nurses of the Province of Quebec extend hearty greetings and best wishes for a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year."

Melbourne, Australia.

"This is to take my greetings for Christmas in this tragic year of 1940, and the hope that the New Year may bring us into better times

"We are greatly thrilled on this side of the world with the gallantry displayed by all the British people in the great ordeal they have had to endure. May they have a happy issue out of all their suffering. I hope you have escaped all personal injury in these awful bombings. With affectionate wishes and great admiration for your life's work for nurses and nursing.

"Yours sincerely,

"J. BELL."

CROYDON GENERAL HOSPITAL.

CHRISTMAS, 1940.

Christmas Eve brought a quiet feeling of good will to the Croydon General Hospital. By 5 p.m. the restricted ward decorations were in position, and were most effective; in fact, it was the opinion of many that the wards looked more attractive than ever with fewer decorations.

Carols were sung in each ward, as in previous years, by the Parish Church Choir at 5 p.m., and at 8.15 p.m. the time-honoured procession of Nurses in red cloaks, carrying lanterns and singing Carols started round the Hospital.

Christmas Day festivities commenced with Carols by the Salvation Army Band, and at 12 noon turkeys were carved and lighted puddings carried into the wards by members of the Board of Management and Honorary Medical Staff.

In the afternoon patients and their friends were entertained to tea and to a short concert by the Nurses. After a very happy day the patients were glad to rest quietly, while a percentage of the Nurses went to their own Christmas dinner, the remainder enjoying theirs on Boxing Day, followed by a party in the Nurses' Home.

On Boxing Day, Holy Communion was celebrated in all the wards, commencing at 6.30 a.m.; and in the afternoon the Christmas Tree was unloaded by Father Christmas, which gave much delight to the children.

The Matron and her Staff would like to take this opportunity to wish all Nurses, at home or overseas, a bright New Year, and hope that it will bring the peace all so ardently desire.

The Year Prizes were won by the following Nurses:—

3rd Year Prize	...	...	Nurse M. Streeter.
2nd Year Prize	...	...	Nurse S. Downes.
1st Year Prize	...	...	Nurse K. Creery.
Heath Clark Medal	...	...	Nurse N. Kilroy.
Surgical Prize	...	...	Nurse M. Streeter.

THE PASSING BELL.

MISS JANE MARGARET HOUSTON.

It is with deep regret that we record the death on December 12th, 1940, on Active Service overseas, of Miss Jane Margaret Houston, Sister, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.

Trained at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, 1934-1939, Miss Houston was appointed Staff Nurse, Q.A.I.M.N.S. Reserve, on September 4th, 1939, and promoted Sister on September 4th, 1940.

Miss Houston served in France with the British Expeditionary Force from September, 1939, to June, 1940, and later joined another hospital proceeding abroad. She was one of the younger members of the Reserve and her death will be keenly felt by her colleagues.

BREAD IN PEACE AND WAR.

The Government proposal to fortify white bread has stimulated interest in the subject and aroused misgiving among those concerned about the nation's health. Hence, the timely appearance of a pamphlet entitled, "Bread in Peace and War," 76 pp., price 2s. 6d. Food Education Society, temporary address, 27, Denning Road, N.W.3. The problem of how to secure a better loaf is exhaustively treated, and the publication should serve as a *vade mecum* for Members of Parliament, medical and dental practitioners, social workers and practical housewives.

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