

## NURSING ECHOES.

The following telegram was despatched to Her Majesty Queen Mary, President, Queen Alexandra's Army Nursing Board on the occasion of her birthday.

"The Matron-in-Chief and all Members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve, and Territorial Army Nursing Service, beg to offer to Your Majesty, their President, respectful and heartfelt Congratulations on the Occasion of Your Birthday.

MATRON-IN-CHIEF,  
Q.A.I.M.N.S."

A gracious reply was received the following day as under:—

"BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

MATRON-IN-CHIEF, Q.A.I.M.N.S.,  
WAR OFFICE, CHELTENHAM.

Am most grateful for your extremely kind Telegram of Congratulations on behalf of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, the Reserve and Territorial Army Nursing Service on this anniversary of My Birthday—MARY R."

In an official announcement recently issued an appeal is made for State Registered Nurses to enlist in the Military Nursing Services for work in all areas; and now that the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and the Territorial Army Nursing Service are to become a part of the Armed Forces of the Crown, these Sisters will be essentially on active service, although enrolment is voluntary. Many more will be needed to serve on war fronts if hostilities are protracted.

"State Registered Nurses," says the announcement, "should consider themselves as much bound to serve in the Army at home or abroad as if they were men. It is the young, newly qualified Sisters whose duty it will be to enrol in such numbers that the soldiers may receive the expert care which the Nursing Profession alone can give them."

We feel sure there will be a wide response to this appeal, and we note with gratification that at last the Government appears to realise that there is such a standard of nursing as can alone be rendered by our efficiently trained and expert Registered Nurses and that our soldiers have a right to their skilled and efficient services.

We have been voicing this demand since Great Britain went to war, and for lack of it suffering and injury have resulted. Those of us who have spent a lifetime in demanding efficient care for the sick and injured and fighting ignorance in high places, now urge with all our heart that Registered Nurses of the highest quality and character will come forward in response to the present appeal. We know that their colleagues already in the Military Nursing Services have proved worthy of their responsibility for the care and comfort of the men who hold the safety and honour of the British Empire in their hands. But an addition to their number is needed; let it be forthcoming *at once*.

Beauty is a potent power, and those of us who remember Queen Alexandra in her zenith have a lasting vision of the utmost grace and loveliness. It is well, therefore, that our sweetest and loveliest flower—the rose—should be forever associated with her name in an appeal for charity and the support of our splendid hospitals. Thus Rose Day, when an appeal is publicly made on Alexandra Day receives, as it should do, a generous response.

This year was the 30th anniversary of the foundation of Alexandra Rose Day, when the Duchess of Kent, herself a lovely lady, drove for two hours through the streets of London visiting various depots, when all London appeared wearing the emblem.

At Westminster Hospital the Duchess accepted a shower bouquet of Alexandra roses from two of the nursing staff. It is to be hoped the result of the flowery appeal will benefit our hospitals with thousands; they need it in these hard times.

The Board of Trade has made the following concession concerning hospital uniform:—

Hospital nurses will be able to obtain new uniforms without surrendering coupons. Instead of coupons hospitals will give the trader a certificate specifying the goods needed and stating that they are for use in a hospital. The Board of Trade has made this concession, which applies also to resident doctors, medical students, and other resident staff and also to other hospital supplies, after the British Hospitals Association had pointed out that the rationing of clothes would place a great hardship on voluntary and other hospitals not covered by existing arrangements. It will operate pending the conclusion of more definite arrangements now under consideration.

A free issue is being made of outdoor uniform to members of the Civil Nursing Reserve who give whole-time service or are regularly employed for at least 48 hours a month.

Clergymen and doctors have decided to co-operate in the treatment of mental ill-health caused by war-strain, and a committee has been formed to achieve this aim, and we hope the help of nurses will be enlisted in the good work.

It is called the National Council for Pastoral and Medical co-operation. Presidents are Lord Horder, the Archbishop of York, and the Rev. S. Berry. The council itself is composed of famous doctors and clergy.

The organiser of the movement is Miss A. Graham Ikin, of Blackpool, a psycho-therapist, who is organising conferences of doctors and clergy, and arranging for Church workers to attend lectures to acquire knowledge they can pass on to their congregations.

The Churches are concerned with preventive work; doctors with cases that have gone too far.

"The Church has a splendid opportunity to strengthen morale," Miss Ikin told a *Sunday Dispatch* reporter. "We all want to withstand the wartime strain and get in touch with the reserves that lie dormant in all of us."

To enable more women to take up war work—plans to open more night nurseries for the care of young children are greatly needed and might well follow the example of

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