

Preston (Lancashire) which already looks after 130 young children every day, and Preston Education Department intends to see that its little ones are cared for during the night.

Any nurse without uniform joining a District Nursing Association for duties which require indoor and/or outdoor uniform may, as an interim measure, purchase rationed goods (including piece goods) free of coupon against surrender to the trader of a certificate enumerating the requisite articles, and stating that the nurse requires them for her duties. This certificate must be signed by the Superintendent of the Association; it will then serve the trader in lieu of the equivalent number of coupons.

CIVILIAN AWARDS—COURAGE DURING AIR RAIDS.

The King has given orders for the following awards for bravery during air raids:

GEORGE MEDAL.

Miss MARGARET BROWN, Works Nurse, Coventry.

A dwelling-house was demolished by an H.E. bomb. The back wall was blown in and the roof collapsed on top of the wreckage. Miss Brown crawled beneath the roof, which was about 2 ft. from the ground. Although in great danger from the shifting wreckage, she tunnelled a way which enabled the rescue party to extricate two people. Bombs were dropped near by, but she showed complete disregard of her own safety.

The same night a building received a direct hit, causing many casualties. Miss Brown attended to these with such efficiency that many lives were saved.

SIDNEY CECIL HILL, House Governor and Secretary; Miss JOYCE ELIZABETH BURTON, Matron; Miss EMMA HORNE, Nursing Sister, Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry.

During an enemy air attack the hospital was heavily damaged by direct hits with bombs.

Mr. Hill worked all night during and after the raid. He led parties to put out fires and to extricate patients from the ruined wards. After the explosion of a time bomb which wrecked part of the basement, he led a party down one of the tunnels, and, at great risk, rescued a number of patients.

Miss Burton went round the wards throughout the raid regardless of personal danger, cheering the patients and encouraging her nursing staff. Whenever a ward was hit she was quickly on the scene, directing and helping with the rescue work. By her courage and example she was largely responsible for the high morale of the patients and nursing staff.

Sister Horne was on duty on the second floor, when a direct hit carried away the end of a ward. She reassured the patients and spared no efforts to evacuate them to the basement. Two other wards then received direct hits and Sister Horne went to these wards and, regardless of personal danger, she helped to pull patients from the wreckage and remove them to safety. Later she managed to release a junior nurse who was trapped under debris and stayed with her in conditions of great danger until further help came.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

A meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Wednesday, July 2nd, at 2.30 p.m. The President (Mrs. Bedford Fenwick) was in the Chair, and there were present: Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss A. Stewart Bryson, Miss E. J. Haswell, Miss E. Martin, R.R.C., Fellows; Miss H. G. Ballard and Miss K. M. Fogarty, Members. Regrets for inability to attend were received from Miss M. S. Cochrane (Vice-President) and Miss M. M. Ingman and Miss E. Hussey.

Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed and signed.

Legal Matters.

The Solicitor attended for consultative purposes, after which the usual business of the Council was proceeded with.

The Death of Miss Jean Gunn, O.B.E.

The President invited the Council to rise, and reported with regret the death of Miss Jean Gunn, O.B.E., First Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses, Superintendent of Nurses, Toronto General Hospital, Toronto, Canada, which had taken place on June 28th last, and had been notified by cable to Dame Ellen M. Musson, Treasurer, I.C.N.

The President said Miss Gunn's long connection with International nursing organisations was recognised throughout Canada; she was one of the most able leaders in the nursing profession, and her loss would be keenly mourned. The Council unanimously agreed that a message of sympathy be forwarded to the Canadian Nurses' Association from the British College of Nurses.

Refutation demanded of Inaccurate Statements by the Royal College of Nursing.

The President drew the attention of the meeting to inaccurate statements which had appeared in the official organ of the Royal College of Nursing, on March 29th last—claiming that the College, "with no shadow of doubt, were instrumental in obtaining State Registration of Nurses"—and also repeating the unjustifiable claim under a further heading of: "What the College Has Done."

The meeting unanimously agreed that a demand should be sent to the Council of the Royal College of Nursing, calling upon it to withdraw this unjustifiable and inaccurate claim calculated to mislead members of the Nursing Profession and the public.

The Assistant Nurse.

Discussion took place on the action of the Association of Hospital Matrons which, without publicity, had unanimously agreed to recommend that a Roll of Assistant Nurses be set up under the care of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales without delay, and that the G.N.C. be asked to implement this immediately.

It was agreed that any action by the General Nursing Council to depreciate the standards and status now prescribed under the Nurses' Registration Act of 1919, and enjoyed by Registered Nurses, should be strenuously opposed. To urge Parliament to bestow legal status on semi-trained women was a retrograde step, injurious to the welfare of the Nursing Profession and the Sick.

Correspondence.

A large number of communications were reported. Letters from colleagues in the Dominions expressing sympathy and admiration for nurses in Great Britain were reported—many of which had been published in the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* and sincerely appreciated.

Letters were reported from two members who had suffered severely from enemy action, and it was agreed to

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