

NURSING ECHOES.

In her recent broadcast to women in America, Her Majesty the Queen, in what she called an almost indefinite list of undaunted women who were bringing courage to those in need, gave special praise to nurses, "whose devotion, whose heroism will never be forgotten." Too many people accepting simply the traditions of the nursing profession take their devoted service for granted.

All the same hundreds of additional nurses are needed in hospitals, first-aid posts, shelters, and rest centres in England and Wales. Let us hope there will be many recruits from those who have recently registered.

Her Majesty Queen Mary has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of 99 Queen's Nurses for service—74 in England, 3 in Wales, 18 in Scotland, and 4 in Ireland to date from July 1.

Our Princess Margaret Rose has had a birthday, and as she was 11, childhood is passing away. The picture we present is charming, and in these tragic days to see the smiling faces of pretty girls in a garden is refreshing; indeed, the pet chameleon no doubt reciprocates the affection lavished on him. *Amor gignit amorem.*

The Duchess of Kent has recently seldom missed a day's active duty, and that she has undergone a minor eye operation and thus has had to cancel all her engagements for a time, will be known with regret. The operation was to remedy merely local trouble to the eye, and as she is in the care of the King's oculist, a speedy recovery is anticipated.

The Empress of Abyssinia, who has been living at Bath for a considerable time, has left England to join her husband in Addis Ababa, accompanied by Princess Tsahai, who has trained as a professional nurse in England, and who anticipates with pleasure the use of her knowledge and skill for the benefit of her own people.

Three hundred nurses are being recruited in Canada for the South African Military Nursing Service.

An "Air Week," marking the anniversary of the week's fiercest fighting during the Battle of Britain, is to be held throughout the country from September 15th. The aim is to give the nation an opportunity of showing, in a tangible form, its appreciation of Britain's air defenders by helping the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund. This appeal will arouse warm sympathy in the ranks of nurses, many more of whom would have lost their lives all over the country but for the heroism of the R.A.F. Let us do our utmost to augment this appeal to our gratitude.

All of a sudden, owing no doubt to war conditions, politicians and the public have apparently become aware that the work of nurses is of some real value. Anyway, it is realised that higher basic salaries must be forthcoming if the supply is to meet the demand. As we have reported, the Ministry of Health has set up a committee to consider the question.

Pending this committee's report provisional increases in the salaries of state registered nurses and students

in training at voluntary hospitals have been arranged with the Ministry of Health by the British Hospitals Association in conjunction with King Edward's Hospital Fund for London and the Nuffield Trust.

These higher minimum salaries are:—

Probationers, first year, £30 a year; second year, £35; third year, £40; fourth year (until state registered) £50; fourth year (state registered), £70.

State registered staff nurses, £90.

Where these rates are paid the extra cost to hospitals will be assisted by a Ministry of Health grant of approximately 50 per cent. of the increase.

For once the nurses' organisations which claim the right to express an opinion on their own affairs, have not been excluded from representation on this new important committee, and we learn that Miss Isabel Macdonald, S.R.N., will represent the Royal British Nurses' Association, and Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., S.R.N., the British College of Nurses. So we are assured of a courageous expression of opinion on the subject, without the avaricious demands which have caused so much adverse criticism on the subject.

Miss Florence Horsbrugh, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, is pushing the nursing question well to the fore, and evidently realises that "stars and stripes" have their uses in a campaign of enlistment. Visiting Birmingham on a recent occasion, she presented proficiency red stars and letters of commendation to nursing auxiliaries of the Civil Nursing Reserve, and reported that there were now over 100,000 registered members in the Reserve, of whom 75,000 were nursing auxiliaries. Though the response had been great, they still needed several thousand more nurses and needed them now. The shortage was particularly acute in hospitals for infectious diseases and sanatoria. Young women between 18 and 30 who wanted to combine war work with the opportunity of training for a career could not do better than enrol as student nurses.

To the Welcome Committee of the Overseas League our thanks are due, in that it organised the luncheon given in honour of the nursing profession and its allies, at the Savoy Hotel on September 3rd.

Sir Jocelyn Lucas, M.P., chairman, read messages from the Queen and Mrs. Winston Churchill, as follows:—

"The Queen sends greetings to the matrons of the bombed London hospitals and to the representatives of all nursing services assembled to-day, with good wishes for the continued success of the great work they are doing for humanity."

Mrs. Churchill wrote:—

"I wish I could have been with you to-day. After seeing so much ruin and devastation wrought by the enemy, our hearts are warmed by you—the large army of skilled and devoted women whose work is to mend, to comfort and to heal."

The Minister of Health, proposing the toast of "The Guests," said that wherever Imperial troops had gone, and wherever German bombs had fallen, the nurses of the Empire had been there, staffing the hospitals and casualty stations, sharing the dangers, and keeping alight the lamp lit in the Crimea 85 years ago. Some Dominion nurses, disappointed at being unable to join official contingents, had paid their own expenses to come

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