

NURSING ECHOES.

Since our last issue His Majesty the King has awarded richly deserved honours to several members of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, and to Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service.

Miss M. H. Goodrich received the Royal Red Cross, First Class, and Miss N. S. Garner and Miss I. N. Price were decorated with the Associate Royal Red Cross.

The four following Matrons of P.M.R.A.F.S. all received the R.R.C., First Class:

Miss O. Suddaby, Miss H. Cargill, Miss C. Youngson, and Miss L. Hardy. This decoration is specially valued by nurses, as it is reserved for those who have rendered active service. All these ladies are to be warmly congratulated.

The annual accounts to September, 1940-1941, of the National Council of Nurses are being audited this week, and a typed copy will be forwarded by the Hon. Treasurer as soon as complete, to the Presidents of all affiliated organisations. We gather that there is a surplus in each of the three accounts, the expenditure this year having been very limited. It will be remembered that £249 15s. was invested in National Savings Certificates, in 1935, for the Florence Nightingale Scholarship Fund, which will be repayable in 1945, at £333 0s. 0d. It remains to be seen how the Nightingale International Memorial Fund will be expended at that date. No doubt changes in the scope of the Memorial may be agreed after the war.

We are glad to note from the Annual Report of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London that closer working co-operation between hospitals and the District Nursing Associations is contemplated for distribution purposes, to all hospitals in the Metropolitan Police area.

Grants towards the cost of district nursing in relief of hospitals' out-patients' departments were made to 84 hospitals in respect of 12,633 patients.

The report adds: "It is hoped that hospitals will be more and more realise the value of the services thus rendered by the District Nursing Associations, and will refer to them larger numbers of out-patients who can be attended equally well by nurses in their own homes."

Let us hope that the salaries of district nurses will soon be increased—no work for the community is of greater value.

It is reported in the Press that nurses are forming a Mobile Squad ready to travel anywhere at any time to relieve pressure in badly raided areas, and recruits are asked for.

Nurses willing to transfer temporarily, as the need arises, are being invited to register at the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, Lower Belgrave Street, S.W.

In the opinion of the General Superintendent it is for the superintendent of each district to decide whether her nurses can be spared for the scheme. Anyway, it sounds patriotic and should succeed.

The *Daily Sketch* reports that the daughter of that most gorgeous of African chieftains, the Alake of

Abeokuta, Nigeria, by name Ademola, is now at Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, London, studying Midwifery for a year. Having gained her Certificate and passed the State Examination for Registration at Guy's, "Miss" Ademola intends, when she returns to Nigeria next year, to take an active interest in the Maternity Clinics and Child Welfare Centres being established in Abeokuta. Her younger brother intends after the war to come to London to study medicine. Thus these civilising professions will no doubt lighten dark continents the world over.

The Hertfordshire County Council has advertised for a Travelling Sister Tutor, who must be a Registered Nurse holding a Sister Tutor's Certificate, who will be responsible for organising and supervising the training of Assistant Nurses in four Public Assistance Institutions in the county. Applications were to be made to the County Medical Officer.

It is to be hoped that no Registered Nurse has been found to undertake so unprofessional a job—for job it is—as the women thus side-tracked will presumably be ineligible for service as Registered Nurses, and will thus be herded into a class without legal status and protection. We most strongly deprecate County Councils, and their Medical Officers, who are securely protected under the Medical Acts, ignoring the Nursing Act, 1919, and thus using public funds to segregate ignorant young women into a class of semi-trained domestic workers with no power of initiative, aspirations, or self-government. Nothing short of serfs in the offing.

The August number of the *Canadian Nurse* has an excellent portrait of the late Miss Jean Isabel Gunn, O.B.E., LL.D., First Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses, and a short biography, by J. Mabel Kniseley, in which she deplures the loss of a renowned citizen and a wise counsellor of the Nursing profession. This number of the *Canadian Nurse* will be filed in the History Section of the British College of Nurses at 19, Queen's Gate, London.

We quote the following interesting item from *The Journal of the Western Australian Nurses*, headed, "Our Nurses in Greece."

A number of Australian and New Zealand nurses were in Greece during the campaign, and their departure from there is told in a graphic description by Ronald Monson in the *Argus*.

They travelled by buses through the night from their hospital near Athens, and during the day hid in corn-fields. Rations were partaken of in the cemetery, and the journey resumed under cover of darkness. The ship they were to join was sunk by enemy action, and they had to travel elsewhere to embark. Dive bombers were very active, and the 160 nurses had to lie with their faces pressed into the earth as they hid in the fields. No talking or smoking was allowed, as the enemy were thought to be near enough for this to have endangered their lives. The only casualties were amongst New Zealand nurses who were in a bus that overturned. "I saw these injured nurses coming ashore. They bore

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)