

the great thing is the student nurses are going full steam ahead, passing examinations, winning certificates, and qualifying for the honour of inclusion in the Register of Nurses and the right to use the magic letters S.R.N. after their names. The League is solvent and investing money—a wonder in these hard times.

The Obituary notices make one sad—gone is the charming Keeper of Muniment, Sir D'Arcy Power, happy and eager to show any member of the Nursing staff the old Charters with their beautiful seals still attached; taking special pains to point out any with special reference to the Nursing Sisters of the early Hospital. The death of Miss Isabel Armitage, the celebrated "Sister Surgery," is recorded, in retirement after 24 years' work in the hospital. A great personality long to be remembered. Also Catherine Pine—in whose nursing home Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst was nursed back to health after 12 of her 13 prison fasts—"hunger strikes." This was an historic service of world-wide significance, and that she has entrusted the British College of Nurses with the priceless medals and bars bestowed upon her by her illustrious patient, is one of the greatest gifts it can possibly receive. Of births, marriages and deaths of members of the League, there is a long list: 34 weddings—may they be happy; 18 babies—priceless gems without doubt; and 16 good women passed to their future glory.

The drudgery of Editorship must be experienced to be realised—so many, many congratulations and thanks to Miss Le Geyt (Editor) and her assistants, Mrs. Thacker and Miss MacCormac.

We all applaud the following Editorial expression of opinion: "At the present time our thoughts are steeled with anguish, tempered with righteous indignation, at the blows that have been rained down by enemy action on the precious fabric of our Hospital and some of the well-known churches and other famous buildings in its vicinity. There remains one gratifying fact—that in consequence of the far-sighted precautions taken by the Hospital authorities for fire-watching and by the splendid assistance rendered by one and all at the time of London's prolonged experience of air warfare, much of the possible damage was dexterously frustrated."

Decorations in time of war should only be awarded to those on active service, who are risking their lives for the country, and these brave men and women are deserving of all the honour the King can award them. But the craze for awarding medals, ribbons and distinctions for persons who are merely engaged in usual vocations by Government Departments is pandering to vanity and notoriety.

Our present Ministry of Health is specially prone to this form of "encouragement." Thus, since our last issue, notice has been given that Red Stars are to be awarded to Nursing Auxiliaries who have given the equivalent of one and two years' service. Why? These women are not trained nurses and are extravagantly paid for the semi-skilled work they perform. Again, a Badge has been designed for the domestic staff in hospitals because of a shortage of domestics in these institutions. This Badge will be circular in form,

bearing the words "Ministry of Health" round the circumference, and "Hospital Service" on the horizontal crosspiece.

The badge will be issued to all those employed on the domestic work of hospitals, including both supervisory and manual workers. It must be surrendered when the recipient leaves the service of the hospital. Hospitals have to keep a record of these bim-bones, as if there was ample time to spare for such folly.

Again, how about the material used in supplying thousands of these badges, and the time and labour of persons employed in their construction, to say nothing of the waste of money?

And what domestic worker wants to be distinguished as such? Quite the reverse. "Jack is as good as his master" these days, and so is Jill. With them we realise their value, but when off duty, when silk stockings are donned and smart shoes to match, no pretty girl or dignified matron wishes to plaster her person with badges instructing the public that she scrubs and cleans, polishes pots and pans, cooks and brews in a hospital. The whole proposal is demoralising nonsense, and we hope some hospital authorities will have the courage to demonstrate this fact to the Minister of Health. This war is real. Every man and woman in the country should be made to realise their duty in connection therewith, and to perform it to the best of their ability without fear or favour.

Sir William Hale-White presided over the December council meeting of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, when it was announced that the British War Relief Society of the U.S.A. had made a grant of £2,000 to help nursing associations in coastal areas which had suffered from air raids. A gift of £1,200 has also been received through this society from Miss Moule, an American nurse, and a group of her friends, who had asked that the money might be sent to the Queen's Institute to help the nurses. The sum of £2,981 has been received from the National Gardens Scheme during 1941.

Do you ever see the *Magazine Digest*, published in Canada? It contains abstracts of topical articles of great variety, and devotes its end pages to "Potpourri," from which we quote the following story: "a fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind."

"Wellington (N.Z.), Saturday.—The earnest young women of the Christchurch Auxiliary Ambulance Service were summoned to the aid of a "casualty." They bandaged him, lifted him gently, then they fumbled and dropped him.

"The fall broke his leg.

"Calmly equal to the emergency, the young women called the St. John Ambulance Brigade, placed the casualty on a stretcher, and slid him carefully into the ambulance—but not quite far enough.

"They slammed the door, which struck the patient on the head and gave him concussion.

"The young women then decided to continue their lessons."—*Sydney (Australia) Sun*.

"A little more training and they can be turned loose against the enemy."—*New Yorker*.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)