

## LOOKING BACK.

Dates in December should be noted by Nurses. December is a month in which British Nurses in the past took the initiative in the organisation of the Nursing Profession; on December 7th, 1887, we formed the British Nurses' Association, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.1, the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and on December 23rd, 1919, we sat on the Crimson Benches in the House of Lords to listen to the Clerk at the Table present the Nurses' Registration Bill, and announce "*Le Roy le veult*," whereby, by Act of Parliament, Nursing was constituted a Profession, by the grant of legal status to trained Nurses, for which privilege they had worked faithfully for upwards of 30 years, a privilege which it is now proposed they shall share with the semi-trained.

How well we remember December 7th, 1887. How a contingent of public-spirited matrons in London, including the late Isla Stewart, of Barts., and Catherine Wood, of Great Ormond Street fame, assembled in the beautiful Adam dining-room at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, and discussed the programme for the foundation of the first Association of trained Nurses in the world—the British Nurses' Association—how, when we came to the clause demanding University Diplomas, one less valiant than her colleagues exclaimed:

"University Diplomas for Nurses, for such a demand we shall certainly be excommunicated!"

How about the D.N. (Lond.) now proudly inscribed as a professional qualification by those Nurses who have attained the honour? The history of the British Nurses' Association, its valiant struggle with reaction, its attainment of the prefix Royal, its demand for a Royal Charter, the two days' battle by legal big-wigs before the Privy Council in 1892, the ultimate Victory of the nurses, the grant of the Royal Charter in 1893, on which Her Royal Highness, Princess Christian, the President, inscribed her name as the first signatory, to be followed by the signatures of 30 persons more or less eminent—now, alas! all gone to their rest with the exception of the writer of this record; events which have passed into history and have been recorded in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for the benefit of those who appreciate truth and justice. The modern Nurse, apparently, cares for none of these things, and we question if they realise the dates of the outstanding events on which their professional status was attained.

Foundation Day, British Nurses' Association, December 7th, 1887.

Legal Status Day, House of Lords, December 23rd, 1919.

### GRATITUDE AND LOYALTY LOVELY VIRTUES.

We desire in this connection to offer very sincere thanks to the nameless donors of the lovely white chrysanthemums, and to inform them that their expressed wish that they should be laid on the grave of the late Dr. Bedford Fenwick on Sunday, December 7th last, was duly carried out. Gratitude and Loyalty are lovely virtues.

### GOOD NEWS.

The Dean of Westminster, addressing recently the Historical and Literary Circle of the Devonshire Club, said that, though the Abbey had suffered fairly extensively from air raids, none of the damage was irreparable.

The most serious loss was the roof of the lantern. If he had been asked what part of the Abbey they could spare without loss to history he would have said the roof of the lantern. It was late work done in 1870, and very bad work at that. It could easily be replaced.

This is good news indeed. What of the ancient Deanery and Little Cloisters? Every effort must be made to restore them without loss of character. A joy to so many, they were.

## THE DEAR ANIMALS.

Bacchus, a four-year-old mongrel, pet on the Free French submarine *Rubis*, has been awarded the Valiant Dog Decoration by the Canine Defence League for gallantry during the submarine's operations.

Orders made by the Ministry of Food fix maximum prices for goat and kid meat, and horseflesh for human consumption. Horseflesh, which includes the flesh of ponies, mules and asses, may only be sold by retail boneless.

We appeal to nurses to use all the influence they possess to decrease the consumption of horseflesh. Humans owe these beautiful and laborious animals more than they can ever repay, and it is indeed cannibalistic to appease hunger by eating them.

We have discussed the question with milkmen and coalmen in the streets, and they are all "agin it."

"I shall keep me eye on old Dobbin; he's more human than me mester," said one begrimed coalman. "Eat 'im! I'd rather starve!"

The pet ponies in the milk-carts have also, we are pleased to learn, champions in many parts of London.

Hordes of foreign refugees, for whom we have now to find food, are in the habit of eating horseflesh—and glad to get it.

## LONDON HOSPITALS' FLAG DAY.

Lord Luke has reason to be well pleased with the result of Hospitals Day, held throughout the Metropolitan Police District this year, as it has resulted in a record collection of £78,293 17s. 6d., over £32,000 more than in 1940. The scheme for combining the hospital flag days in London was instituted in 1936, when there were more than 77 flag days at which the total of £25,716 7s. 7d. was collected. So that organisation has resulted in steady improvement each year, and proves that the hospitals have gained by combination.

## MANNERS IN MINIATURE.

Daughter of eminent Divine paying visit of sympathy to poor and very sick parishioner, who, with the class instincts of the past, attempts to show his humble duty to his betters.

*Wife of Patient*; "Now, my dear, you get on with your dying whilst I entertain the quality!"

## WHAT TO READ.

### BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIRS.

- "Mr. Churchill." Philip Guedalla.
- "Winston Churchill." Lewis Broad.
- "British Statesmen." Ernest Barker.

### FICTION.

- "Open the Door." Osbert Sitwell.
- "N or M." Agatha Christie.
- "The Empty Room." Charles Morgan.
- "Sophia." St. John Ervine.
- "The Man in Grey." Lady Eleanor Smith.
- "Violation." Owen Rutter.
- "The Gulls Fly Inland." Sylvia Thompson.
- "Northbridge Rectory." Angela Thirkell.
- "No Budekin." Sarah Campion.
- "Go Away Death." John Creasey.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

- "Comrade Genia." The Calvary of a Young Russian Schoolmistress. With a Preface by Ronald Scarfe.
- "Berlin Diary." William L. Shirer.
- "This is London." Edward R. Murrow.
- "Training for the Life of the Spirit." Gerald Heard.
- "The Cornerstones." Eric Linklater.
- "English Country Houses." V. Sackville-West.
- "The Story of Scotland." F. Fraser Darling.

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