

got him across her shoulders and carried him downstairs over masses of debris. Returning, she collected dangerous drugs which she put in a safe place. By this time her condition was such that she had to be taken away for treatment. A few days later, she was in bed in the Grovelands hospital when this, too, received a direct hit. A fire was started in the ward and the floor was strewn with shattered glass, but Nurse Marmion, in her bare feet, jumped out of bed and helped to take the other patients to safety.

In the latest list of 23 awards, two women are awarded the George Medal, Miss Dorothy May White, a Red Cross Nurse, of Colegate, near Horsham, Sussex, and Miss Gillian K. Tanner, of the Auxiliary Fire Service, and indeed they both deserved this honourable recognition.

We are glad to note the Press has done justice to the heroic conduct of these two women.

With two other V.A.D.s, Miss White was on duty at the first aid post at the village hall during a raid. While there a bomb dropped on the District Nurse's cottage next door, completely demolishing it. The three V.A.D.s immediately went to the nurse's help and found her in the crater which had been the cottage, lying head downwards, alive but badly injured.

With great difficulty they lifted the nurse out on to a stretcher and carried her to the village hall.

Then a bomb fell directly on to the hall, demolishing the end where the injured nurse lay, killing her, fatally injuring one of the V.A.D.s, and severely injuring the other.

With no thought for herself V.A.D. White scrambled over the debris and found the two injured members partly covered by fallen rubble. She immediately gave first aid.

She got one of the injured V.A.D.s on to a stretcher, and eventually into an ambulance with the assistance of the police. Then she went to help other casualties.

"In spite of the fact that her own house was so badly damaged as to render it uninhabitable, she carried on day after day in the village, helping in every possible way. Miss White's coolness and courage were an example to all," says the official story of her gallantry.

Miss White's two V.A.D. colleagues, Miss Heather Barnes, who died, and Miss Gertrude Norah Pitceathly, are commended for "brave conduct."

No wonder our colleagues in the great Dominions feel the reflected glory of such conduct. No doubt they would participate in it if they were here.

Miss Marjorie E. Perkins, Works Nurse at Coventry, has been awarded the George Medal.

Miss Perkins was in charge of a works surgery, and during an intensive air raid she rendered excellent service to casualties at the works, in streets, and at a public shelter, despite the fact that bombs were constantly falling all round. On two occasions she was flung across the surgery by blast, the first time being injured internally and the second time being rendered unconscious. After recovering consciousness, although in considerable pain, she carried on, dealing with further casualties. Throughout the night she did her work with complete disregard for her own personal safety.

Miss Mabel Reynolds has resigned the Matronship of the London Hospital, after a short period of office; we learn that it is a post of some difficulty in these days.

When we have come into touch with Miss Reynolds we have found her invariably very kind and courteous, for which thanks.

There have only been five Matrons of the London in the past sixty years, since we held the position of Sister in 1879. Miss S. Swift, Miss Lütckes, Miss Beatrice Monk, Miss G. M. Littleboy and Miss Reynolds. "The London" has the largest Nursing School in the United Kingdom, and its Matronship is a truly splendid position where a woman may exercise her talents and fill her life with joy. Yes. We mean joy in spite of all the difficulties.

We have on more than one occasion warned Nurses that after the war their professional position will be very precarious, owing to several factors. One, of course, is the dilution of their work and fees by hordes of semi-trained women, who, having acquired a little knowledge and experience of nursing, and paid beyond their deserts, will naturally wish to continue their work in competition with qualified nurses. This is natural, but as usual the skilled worker will be the loser unless she has the sense to organise as men's professions invariably do.

One great danger is at present practically in abeyance—the recommendations of the Athlone Committee in so far as they propose to depreciate the status of the Registered Nurse, and it is up to Registered Nurses to fight strenuously to prevent the injustice of the Committee's proposals in this connection. Will they do it? or will they be manipulated as in the past by the nominees of persons in powerful professional positions, whose status and emoluments would in no way be affected by unskilled competition.

The word democracy is on every tongue in defining our *raison d'être* in the War. You know what it stands for, *Government by the people*, and so far as the Nursing Profession is concerned, such a claim has never been conceded. Potentates of all political parties claim firmly the right to dictate to the Nursing Profession—the Ministry of Health, the London County Council, a great offender, which during War has compelled its 10,000 nurses to submit to alien-born control; innumerable Public Bodies, Lords, Commons, Peeresses, Teachers, and busybodies of every type. Alas! how are we to escape from their clutches, and survive the fray? Nurses have proved in the monumental struggle with evil that they have superb physical courage in saving life. Let them call forth their moral courage on a commensurate scale, and save their Professional honour. It is their duty and must be done. Let us begin *now*.

We noted a press report a few weeks ago that the Tomb of Rahere, in St. Bartholomew's the Great, had not been protected from enemy destruction, because of the cost! This seems incredible, let us hope by now this historic monument is safe. Happily as in the Great Fire of 1666, "Barts." escaped destruction, and

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