

The Nurses' centres have suffered some rattling from enemy action since our last issue.

20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.1, has suffered slightly from blast. It was in this beautiful house, the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, that they founded the British Nurses' Association in 1887, and from which centre this Journal was editorially issued for upwards of thirty years. Here also meetings were held in consideration of national and international organisations of nurses, here the pioneers were gathered together and laid the foundation stone of international solidarity, which in spite of war, stands firmly through the good efforts of our colleagues in the United States, until the time is ripe to resume freedom of action, and all that may be accomplished through it.

One of the most sisterly and beneficent branches of the work of the Royal British Nurses' Association for many years has been the maintenance of the Nurses' Settlement in Clapton Square. Here in a commodious house, no doubt in the past the home of some City merchant, rooms are allotted to members who in old age have no home and whose means are limited. Very happy the majority of the residents are, in their independence, with their own Lares and Penates around.

Alas! this district has been cruelly damaged by bombs — and now made almost uninhabitable; the Settlement for the time being is closed. It is well that friends have found homes for the inmates, and that financial help has been forthcoming.

Then the beautiful Edith Cavell Home for Nurses near London, a memorial to the great Englishwoman who suffered death at the hands of the Huns in Brussels in the last war, is wrecked. This sacrilege is no doubt intensely gratifying to the barbarians who have bombed it into ruins; but only for the time being—in the near future up it will go in better form than ever.

Mr. L. H. S. Nightingale, of Lea Hurst, Holloway, Matlock, Derby, who died on September 27th last, aged 74 years, left £22,321 1s. 3d. gross, with net personalty £13,122 12s. 5d. (duty paid £1,908). He left papers and relics of Florence Nightingale to be handed to St. Thomas's Hospital for their collection.

This is a good example for other connections of Miss Nightingale to follow.

The immediate appointment of a supreme shelter controller armed by the Government with wide powers

is called for in a recent issue of the *British Medical Journal*.

Whether medical man or layman, this official should be somebody generally known as a man of affairs able to see that his ideas are carried out.

Among the main tasks which such a controller would have to attempt would be the improvement in conditions in the shelters; the proper cleansing and storage of the bedding; and the supply and choice of food. Women must help in these domestic details.

As things are, at least four ministries and a number of local authorities are said to be concerned in this matter and the division of responsibility causes inevitable delay.

Following on Lord Horder's report, the Minister of Health decided that nurses as well as doctors must be available in all the large shelters of London. Recently,

the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, Miss Florence Horsbrugh, made an appeal for retired public health and other fully trained nurses. More than 600 letters have been received in response. These applications are now being sifted, and already about 100 fully trained State Registered Nurses have been allocated to various Boroughs. More nurses, either trained or auxiliary, have been supplied locally, and the total available for shelter work is now more than 300.

The fully trained nurses receive an inclusive salary of 3 guineas a week. Hours of duty are approximately 96 a fortnight, involving alternate nights on duty while the hours of black-out are at their longest.

Four part-time shelter Matrons have been appointed by the Ministry of Health to visit and supervise the nursing personnel in the shelters in consultation with the Medical Officers.

In the current number of the *St. Dunstan's Review*, Sir Ian Fraser, Chairman of St. Dunstan's, writes:—

"The new St. Dunstaners of this war are doing well. Many have already passed their typewriting test and some even their Braille test. When I recall how long it took me to pass my Braille test, I cannot help marveling at the speed with which one or two young fellows have achieved this difficult task. This time we are not considering the old Braille test, which so many of us passed in the last generation, as being sufficient. I feel all old St. Dunstaners will agree with me that more prolonged study and practice are required." Two students (he adds) are already learning massage and one or two have been selected for a course in telephone operating.



MISS WINIFRED BOYD-ROCHFORD, O.B.E.,
Matron, St. Dunstan's. Awarded the O.B.E. in the
New Year's Honours.

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