

"I would so gladly be where I could help in any way. You all are so heroic. God be with you.

"Yours sincerely,

"MARY JACOB."

Several members write to express sorrow at the demolition of 39, Portland Place. Most of them realise how providential it was that we had flitted, with no loss of life or property.

The President has received the following letter of thanks from Mr. Gregory Macdonald, the energetic Secretary of the Polish Relief Fund, conveying Christmas Greetings to the Members of the British College of Nurses:—

33, Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

December 19th, 1940.

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,

Thank you very much for the copy of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for December. I was interested to see it, and must thank you most warmly for the paragraphs given to publicise the "Polish Eagle" Cigarettes. I am sure that many orders will come in as a result.

With best wishes for Christmas, to you and to the members of the College.

Yours sincerely,

GREGORY MACDONALD.

Realising as we do that the great Polish nation—just because it is great—has been more brutally treated by its barbarous enemy than any other conquered people, our sympathy is all the more ardent with its resistance to tyranny; and we feel sure the members of this College will do what is possible to support the struggle of Poland for life and liberty.

The Polish military unit in Scotland is highly organised and ready for action—when the call comes. Its nursing contingent has our affectionate regard and good wishes.

THE CALENDAR FUND.

By the generosity of Miss Isabel Macdonald, once again a number of Members of the College have received a Christmas gift from the profit on the sale of the beautiful Calendar for 1941, "A Garland from Browning." As in former years, the Calendar was published with the purpose of sending cheques for comfort and cheer at Christmastime to many sick and aged nurses. Letters of gratitude from the recipients have been received expressing thanks for the remembrance in these strenuous days. In acknowledging the gifts, one and all send good wishes in the hope that 1941 may bring peace and happiness to the world again.

OBITUARY.

MISS ETHEL MARY WORSELDINE, S.R.N., M.B.C.N.

We deeply regret to report the death of Miss Ethel Mary Worseldine, a Member of the British College of Nurses, which took place at Hove on December 12th after a brief illness.

Miss Worseldine was trained at the Southwark Hospital, and will be remembered by her colleagues as Matron of the Eastern Hospital, Homerton, where her duties were performed with great ability and kindness. Since her retirement Miss Worseldine resided at Hove, where she put in useful active service as a member of St. John Ambulance Brigade, holding the position of District Lady Superintendent until compelled by ill-health to give up active work.

The funeral service took place at All Saints' Church, Hove, on December 16th, followed by cremation at Brighton Crematorium. Her many friends, fellow members of the British College of Nurses, will deeply mourn her loss.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

A VALUABLE CIRCULAR.

Prevention of Infectious Diseases.

We do not wonder that in the recent debate in the House of Lords, Lord Addison referred to the multitude of circulars issued from the Ministry of Health; verily they are legion, but we appreciate their reception. That on "Prevention of Infection in Public Air Shelters" is very necessary and valuable. It touches on diphtheria, typhoid fever, tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases, and advises that persons suffering from dangerous infectious disease should not be taken to public shelters.

Infection by Vermin.

The congregation of large numbers of persons in shelters must increase the liability to infestation by vermin. Those who suffer in this way will often welcome the opportunity of getting rid of these conditions. The Minister thinks it important that the facilities for this purpose should be adequate. The resources of the authority will consist of:—

- (a) Facilities available at the public baths and cleansing stations;
- (b) Facilities which can be made available at gas decontamination stations or in basements adapted for the purpose, which can be served by mobile disinfecting units.

Steps are being taken by the Ministry to obtain necessary supplies of material required for the installation of these latter facilities.

The Medical Officer of the authority should be requested to review the facilities now available for cleansing, and satisfy himself that they are or can be made adequate for the purpose of disinfecting persons who submit themselves to such treatment.

The necessary cost incurred in making additional provision for the cleansing and treatment of persons attending public shelters will be reimbursed by the Ministry.

Urgency of Administrative Action.

The Minister has thought it desirable to deal comprehensively in this Circular with the preventive and remedial action which can be taken by the authority to reduce the danger of infection to the public, and he has no doubt that the authority, recognising the cardinal importance to the national war effort of maintaining public health, will utilise and develop their resources to the full. The authority will be advised by their Medical Officer of Health on these questions, and the Minister has no doubt that the Medical Officer will be authorised to take without delay such executive action as he considers necessary for the effective discharge of this urgent duty. The Medical Officers of the Department will be ready to give to him any advice or assistance in their power in expediting any action necessary to the attainment of the desired objective.

Emergency Public Health Laboratories.

Appended to this Circular is a list of the addresses of Emergency Public Health Laboratories, together with the name of the pathologist, in a number of towns in the South, Midlands and North, and Wales, and Sector Laboratories serving the Counties of Kent, Essex, Surrey, Herts, and Middlesex.

SISTER DORA'S BIRTHDAY.

Following the honoured custom, the Mayoress of Walsall placed a floral tribute on the statue of Sister Dora on January 16th.

The self-sacrificing labours of Sister Dora at the Walsall General Hospital from 1865-1878 endeared her to the hearts of Walsall people, and they welcome this opportunity of paying homage to her memory.

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