

## TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Letter of thanks from Miss Grace M. Fairley, President, Canadian Nurses' Association.

CANADIAN NURSES' ASSOCIATION,  
Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver, B.C.  
April 16th, 1941.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, S.R.N., President,  
The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain,  
19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, England.

DEAR MRS. FENWICK,—It would be difficult to express in a letter our real appreciation of your thoughtfulness in sending to the members of the Canadian Nurses' Association the delightful copy of "King and Country" and your accompanying affectionate message.

I was really touched to think that in these sad and strenuous days you could spare time to think of us, and I can assure you our members will be very much alive to the great bond of understanding that prompted your action. I have read the addresses with much pleasure—it is a wonderful compilation of great and varied thought—and I am now forwarding it along with your letter to our National Office for safe keeping.

For some reason there has been unusual delay in the mail, and it will be the June issue of *The Canadian Nurse* ere the announcement can reach our members, but we so marvel at the continued, fairly regular postal service that a few weeks' delay is quite understandable. As a matter of fact, from the external appearance of the parcel, I fear it had a stormy passage, but the dear little book was in perfect condition, and I know it will be greatly prized by our members.

You are all much in our thoughts and our prayers. These are, indeed, difficult days.

Will you accept my personal thanks, as well as that of our members, and convey my kindest regards to our many friends and assure them that their welfare is our constant anxiety.—Affectionately yours,

GRACE M. FAIRLEY,  
President, Canadian Nurses' Association.

### KING AND COUNTRY.

To quote from *The Canadian Nurse*, of May, 1941: "Recently, a delightful edition of 'King and Country,' which is a selection of some of the finest speeches and broadcast addresses made by members of the Royal Family and many of the great British Statesmen during 1939 and 1940 has been received. This book is a gift to the Canadian Nurses' Association from the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, and was accompanied by the following message from its President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Founder of the International Council of Nurses. This message reads as follows:—

"Presented to the members of the Canadian Nurses' Association with affectionate gratitude, from their colleagues in the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain."

"This treasured gift is now in safe keeping at the national headquarters of the Canadian Nurses' Association."

"The members of the Canadian Nurses' Association will be greatly touched by this mark of affection and

thoughtfulness at a time when the President of the British Association must have very full, busy and trying days. We are glad to express the thanks and deep appreciation through its journal, and to take this opportunity of letting the nurses of the Empire, who are on duty in Britain, know how much they are in our thoughts and prayers." G. M. F.

Referring to this appreciation, Miss Ethel Johns, R.N., the Editor, expresses the opinion, with which we shall all agree, that "'For King and Country' is indeed an inspiring motto for us all."

### "LIVE OR DIE THY SOLDIER."

Our Canadian colleagues are, as we all know, serving with the utmost devotion the needs of the Canadian forces in Britain and Europe. As we all are, they are soldiers of King and Country, and the following prayer will, we feel sure, appeal to their sense of patriotism.

#### A Prayer for a Soldier, 1609.

Arm me, O thou God of battles, with courage this day, that I may not fall before my enemies. The quarrel is thine, let the victory be thine. Tie to my sinews the strength of David, that I may with a pebble-stone strike to the earth these giants that fight against thy truth. . . . So let me fight that, whether I come off lame or sound, dead or alive. I may live or die thy soldier. Amen.—THOMAS DEKKER.

### GONE WITH THE BLAST.

Throughout the nursing world at home and abroad, the further damage by high explosives and fire of the beautiful headquarters of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation in Manchester Square, W.1., will be deeply deplored. According to *The Times*:—

"Only the remains now stand, surrounded by empty houses and heaps of ruins. The foundation, which was a belated memorial to Florence Nightingale, was first suggested at a meeting of the International Council of Nurses in Cologne 56 years after her achievement in the Crimean War. For the past 20 years women of many different nationalities have gathered annually at Manchester Square to study and to work together in this post-graduate course of advanced medicine, so that when they left to go back to their own countries they were specialists in tending the sick; many of them became leaders of the nursing services in their own countries."

Those of us who were present at Cologne in 1912, will never forget that inspiring occasion when the International Memorial to Miss Nightingale was proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, seconded by Dean M. Adelaide Nutting, of Teachers' College, New York, and supported by Fräulein Agnes Karll. And later, in 1933, when the I.C.N. met in Paris, the Memorial materialised, thanks to the generous participation of the League of Red Cross Societies, which had already organised the international Courses of Study in Nursing at 15, Manchester Square, London.

Alas! for the moment a fine international movement gone with the blast; but nothing is more certain than that it will arise from the ashes, and benefit humanity throughout the world when the Nightingale saga materialises once more.

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