

## A PAGE FROM THE "QUEEN'S NURSES' MAGAZINE."

We feel sure their colleagues in other branches of nursing will realise with pride the patriotic impulse of Queen's Nurses, which has resulted in the marvellous success of their appeal for their Ambulance Fund. The story is so inspiring as set forth in the *Queen's Nurses' Magazine*, that we are prompted to quote the whole story.

### AMBULANCE FUND.

The nurse who was laboriously climbing up the ladder in our last issue to reach the £1,000 mark has been greatly speeded up. In fact, she has been over the top four times, for the amount has reached £4,044—a sum far beyond the fondest imagination of its Organising Committee. Very warm thanks are extended to every donor. Both Queen's and County Nurses have worked hard and their achievement has been great. So great has it been that particulars of it were sent to our Patron, H.M. Queen Mary, with a request that she would graciously make the presentation when the ambulances were ready. She has replied in the following beautiful letter, which will be greatly treasured by us all:—

" MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, S.W.1.  
November 10th, 1940.

" DEAR MISS WILMSHURST,

" I have had the honour of explaining to Queen Mary all that you told me about the Queen's and District Nurses Ambulance Fund, and how the scheme, started by the Reading Branch of the Queen's Nurses, has been taken up with such enthusiasm by the Queen's and the District Nurses throughout the length and breadth of the country, that a total of just on £4,000 has been raised.

" Her Majesty commands me to say that it was with feelings of the greatest joy and pride that she heard of this truly wonderful and generous response made by Her Nurses and the other District Nurses to the appeal for this Fund.

" Queen Mary was deeply touched by the wish expressed by the nurses to present an ambulance to one of Her regiments, and is only so sorry that it is not possible for an individual regiment to possess its own ambulance. However, with the unexpectedly large sum of money available, Her Majesty thinks that nothing could be better than the presentation of an X-ray unit to the British Red Cross Society and two ambulances, one to the War Office for the Army and the other to the Mechanised Transport Corps for civil and military use, and then, if the money runs to it, a mobile canteen to the Mechanised Transport Corps.

" Had it been at all possible, nothing would have given Queen Mary greater pleasure than to accept the nurses' invitation to undertake the presentation of their gifts, but, as you will understand, Her Majesty cannot make any formal engagements in London at the present time.

" Finally, I am to say that Queen Mary realises what efforts the nurses must have made to raise such a magnificent sum, and that Her Majesty congratulates one and all who gave their time and their money to achieve this splendid success.

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) H. WICKHAM,  
Private Secretary to H.M. Queen Mary.

" Miss Mercy Wilmshurst,

" The Queen's Institute of District Nursing."

It was, of course, a disappointment to find that Her Majesty's presence was not possible, though we all realise the difficulties of the present time. We are delighted, however, that H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent has agreed to make the presentation on behalf of H.M. Queen Mary,

and we are most grateful to her for this kind promise. The date will be arranged as soon as the X-ray unit nears completion. Owing to war conditions the function will have to be very simple, but a full report of it will, of course, appear in this Magazine and the nursing Press.

Instead of presenting one ambulance, as was at first our ambition, we are now able to do very much more, and we feel sure that the contributors will be proud to know that the British Red Cross Society is to receive a mobile X-ray unit, costing £1,800; the War Office an ambulance, costing £500, the Mechanised Transport Corps (a women's organisation) an ambulance, costing £400 and £100 for a year's endowment, and a mobile canteen, costing £300 and £100 for one year's endowment.

Unfortunately there will be some inevitable delay in producing all these vehicles owing to the priority which must be given to urgent military claims, but this will be shortened as far as possible.

There will then be a sum of money over, and it would be helpful to know whether contributors would like to help their colleagues, whether Queen's or County Nurses, who have lost their possessions owing to enemy action. Many have lost all their clothing and some their homes. Assistance in this way would be very welcome.

## URGENT NEED FOR FEVER NURSES.

The Minister of Health, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, recently broadcast an appeal for the services of trained Fever and Tuberculosis Nurses.

Mr. MacDonald said:—

I want to make a simple appeal to nurses, and especially to those who have training and experience in fever and tuberculosis nursing.

We have made extensive preparations in hospitals and convalescent homes for the care of war casualties, both military and civilian. The testing time for that service arrived with the first convoys of wounded soldiers from Norway and Flanders, and again when the German air squadrons began their savage onslaught on men, women and children in this country. It has stood the test superbly well. Throughout these months doctors and nurses and hospital orderlies have carried out their merciful duties, sometimes in the thick of battle, and passed every test of courage and fine professional efficiency. But there is other nursing to be done. It has gone on all the time, but its special testing period has arrived. We must see to it that the dramatic appeal of the war wounded does not make us neglect the more normal but equally important work of defending the public health against disease. That protection is just as urgent and proud national service as any other, now that the war is being waged over and around and on the whole civilian population of this island. The circumstances of this war have increased the dangers to public health. People are working longer hours; travelling is less easy and more tiring; sleep is apt to be interrupted. Such physical and mental strain may lessen our powers of resistance to disease.

The coldest winter months are at hand; and beyond them are March winds and April showers. It is the epidemic season, so now is the time for you infectious diseases nurses to give your special help to the nation. We want fever-fighters as well as fire-fighters in the next few months. Let me say frankly there is a definite shortage of them to-day.

Then, what practical steps can you nurses who have special training and experience in fever and tuberculosis nursing take? Let me tell you.

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