

NURSING ECHOES.

At the Forty-fifth Annual Meeting of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, which was held at the House of Lords, with the late Duke of Kent in the Chair, a very interesting report of a successful year was presented—£313,000 having been distributed in 1941—although the money was somewhat less than in 1940.

The Nursing Recruitment Committee's report presented by Lord Luke, showed that during the year the recruitment service was notified of the acceptance by hospitals of over 1,100 of its candidates for training and qualification as State Registered Nurses.

This section of the fund is pushing ahead in various parts of the country, and it is to be hoped that this Committee will help materially to prevent the fatal policy of degrading nursing educational standards. All that is required is the realisation of the duty of those who are promoting a campaign urging well-educated young women to adopt nursing as a profession—that their economic interests will be protected—and that they will not be faced with registered semi-trained competition.

When we returned to town recently from a short holiday, we found all the "Exchanges" awaiting scrutiny, and as they are always most interesting and informative, we hope to clear their news in time.

From the *Canadian Nurse* we learn that the official announcement has been made of the appointment of Principal Matron Agnes Neill to be Matron-in-Chief of the Overseas Nursing Service of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. Miss Neill is a graduate of the School of Nursing of the Toronto General Hospital; in 1935, she took the post-graduate course at Bedford College, London, offered through the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, situated in Manchester Square—now, alas, in ruins.

Upon her return to Canada, Miss Neill became a member of the Training School Office Staff of the Toronto General Hospital, and in that capacity gave excellent service as surgical supervisor. Upon the outbreak of war, she immediately volunteered for military service, and shortly afterwards went overseas as Matron of No. 15 Canadian General Hospital. Her colleagues rejoice at her well-earned promotion as her new task will not only afford ample scope for her marked ability as an administrator, but also for the display of the sympathy and tact which are so characteristic of her character.



MISS AGNES NEILL

Matron-in-Chief, Overseas Nursing Service of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps.

The *Canadian Nurse* records yet another honour conferred upon Major Elizabeth Smellie, C.B.E., R.R.C., by the University of Western Ontario. The official citation, read by Dr. A. J. Slack, Dean of the Faculty of Public Health, is an eloquent tribute which will give pleasure to Major Smellie's colleagues at home and overseas. It concludes: "Through the Faculty of Public Health, which is devoted to the training of graduate nurses, our University is indebted to Major Smellie to a degree difficult to express in words. The debt is twofold: it is due, in part, to direct counsel she has afforded in the past, as to the shaping of adequate graduate courses in nursing; it is due in still greater part to the strong, clear guidance she has always ardently and unselfishly given to all endeavours to raise the standards of nursing education and practice throughout Canada. Major Smellie is an ornament to her profession,

a great citizen of Canada and the Empire, and an exalted pattern of womanhood."

It is surprising indeed to record such praise in honour of a colleague. We have before us the report of the Nursing Department of the University of Western Ontario. We must wake up in the Old Country if we are to keep in step with the rapid advance in collegiate nursing in Canada and the United States.

Under the heading "No Petticoat Rule for Soldiers," we recently read an article in the *Yorkshire Post* by Lieut.-Gen. Sir Douglas Brownrigg, from which we quote:—

"There has been a good deal of confused thinking among the general public as a result of regular commissions being given to women in the Auxiliary Services.

"People have written to me deploring the fact that men now find themselves compelled to submit to A.T.S. officers in the Army.

"Yet, on the other hand, I have heard it freely stated that under no circumstances can an A.T.S. officer be put in command of male officers or male other ranks.

"The truth lies half-way between these two extremes.

"The commission which an A.T.S. officer receives invests her with the right to exercise command over women serving under her orders, and over any officers and soldiers who may be specially placed under her orders from time to time.

"In other words, an A.T.S. officer, by virtue of her commission received from the King, has powers of command over all women of junior rank to herself in her own Service.

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