

greeting us. I am convinced they had no idea that France was capitulating the next day.

As we came nearer to the docks we saw hundreds of troops, some resting at the roadside, others moving slowly on. We were driven right in to the docks and boarded a tender which already had about 100 men on board.

We set off almost immediately, and after about an hour came up alongside the *Duchess of York*, which was already crowded, and got on board as quickly as possible. We could hear the dull thud of bomb explosions over the docks again at this time.

About midnight on June 16th we sailed for home.

News of France's capitulation heard on the ship's wireless came as a great shock to us all.

After an uneventful voyage we arrived in Liverpool on the 18th, and were allowed to proceed to our respective homes until recalled for duty.

HOSPITAL AMALGAMATION.

COMBINED SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN N. AND E. LONDON.

A first step in the co-ordination of London voluntary hospital services is announced by the amalgamation of two large children's hospitals.

They are the Queen's, Hackney Road, Bethnal Green, E., and the Princess Elizabeth of York, Shadwell, E. Both are hospitals in which the Royal Family has taken a great personal interest.

The new organisation will, subject to official approval, be called the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children. The combined hospitals serve a population of something like 2,000,000, and will have more than 450 beds in London and the country.

An Act of Parliament has to be passed in both Houses before the amalgamation is legally completed, and it is hoped that it will be effective from October 1st, 1942.

The Queen's Hospital was established in 1867 by two women in a narrow thoroughfare in the most crowded part of Bethnal Green as a dispensary for women and children.

The Princess Elizabeth Hospital was founded by a doctor a year later, in a sailmaker's loft in Ratcliffe Highway, a tough quarter in the East End. Later, Charles Dickens made it famous by an appeal for funds.

Lord Iliffe, President of the Queen's Hospital, will be the first president of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and the board of management is drawn from members of the boards of the two hospitals.

Mr. Charles H. Bessell, who has been in the service of the Queen's for 22 years, will be the general secretary of the new hospital. In a statement, following special Courts of Governors of both hospitals when the arrangements were approved, Mr. Bessell said:

"It will be a tremendous advantage to the children of East and North London now that the facilities are brought under one management and made available for the population we jointly serve.

"The headquarters will be at the Queen's Hospital, and we shall continue every facility here, a casualty and out-patient centre, with perhaps a few emergency beds at Shadwell, an adequate country hospital, with 200 beds at Banstead, in addition to two seaside convalescent homes at Bexhill and Bognor, and an annexe at Woking. Banstead will also be an important research centre.

"We thus hope to be in a position to meet every call for service made upon us, and particularly to be in a position to co-operate fully with all other bodies concerned with the welfare of sick children."

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

A meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the offices of the Council, 23, Portland Place, London, W., on February 27th. Dame Ellen Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., presided.

Dame Ellen Musson thanked the Council for the honour they had done her in re-electing her as Chairman of Council for the ensuing year; she thought it quite time she gave up office, but while her colleagues are so busy, she considers it a bit of war work.

Correspondence.

The following letter and Resolution from the British College of Nurses were read to the Council:

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

February 5th, 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of

the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

MADAM,—I beg to enclose for the consideration of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales a copy of the following Resolution, which was unanimously adopted at the meeting of the Special Committee for the Protection of the Legal Status of the Registered Nurse, held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on January 22nd, 1942.

Resolution.

"That a letter be sent to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, asking it to define its policy concerning the proposed legal registration of semi-trained Assistant Nurses, the Roll to be controlled by the Council."

My Council will be greatly obliged for a reply to this Resolution, as it is strongly opposed to any depreciation of the standards of education now maintained by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and is of opinion that the legal recognition of semi-trained nurses would eventually depreciate the economic stability of the Nursing Profession.—I am, Madam,

Yours faithfully,

ETHEL G. FENWICK,

President.

The Chairman said that the General Nursing Council had not been approached in any way concerning this matter, and had therefore not formulated any policy. It was agreed that a reply to this effect be forwarded to the British College of Nurses.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £670 for weekly salaries, £100 for postage, and £40 for insurance stamps were allowed.

The Register of Nurses for 1942 would be printed in Vols. I., II. and III., 6½ in. by 9½ in., containing approximately 4,496 pages. The cost of 200 sets of three volumes each would cost £4,186 1s. 9d., and it was agreed that the price of the 1942 Register of Nurses be £2 2s.

Registration.

Applications for approval for registration were: General Register, by reciprocity, 2; Supplementary Part of the Register for Mental Nurses, by reciprocity, 2; for Sick Children's Nurses, by reciprocity, 1; for Fever Nurses, by examination, 14, by reciprocity, 1. Total 20.

It was agreed that 653 nurses who had hitherto failed to pay their retention fee, and now wished their names re-included in the Register, should be re-included.

Education and Examination.

The reply was considered to a letter from the Minister of Health, enclosing correspondence from the Town Clerk

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