

### NURSING ECHOES.

When the sword of Damocles has been hanging over one's head for two years its fall is no surprise. Alas! the Paper Control has now intimated a drastic cut in the allowance of paper permissible for the issue of this Journal, and with sincere regret we have been compelled to limit space, and also to squeeze as much as possible to make a slight alteration in our make-up. Thus the Official Announcements and Hospital Vacancies will be found on the back cover instead of in the front of the paper.

We hope that our subscribers, many of whom have been associated with the Journal for many decades, will continue to support its policy in these very difficult times. We can assure them that as soon as possible, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will return to its former size; its policy will remain as ever: freedom from trade pressure, the only means by which a professional journal can save its soul alive.

When the Annual Meeting of the Scottish Nurses' Club, Glasgow, was held on March 28th, a message from Queen Mary, Patroness of the Club, stating that she had read the Annual Report and was pleased to know that the conditions of the club were so satisfactory, was conveyed in a telegram from Lady Ailsa.

Lord Provost Biggar, in moving the approval of the report, stated that 1941 had been a very busy and successful year in the club, the facilities provided being of great value to the Glasgow and district nurses in the pursuit of their professional duties. In spite of war conditions, the efficiency of the club had not been impaired, and it had been able to meet the increasing demands of the members on its accommodation.

Scotland has been allotted two of the eight members of the new corps of flying nurses, a new branch of the nursing service associated with the war-time activities of the R.A.F.

On their blue W.A.A.F. uniform these eight girls wear a half wing with the red cross sewn above, the mark of their new duties. Their duties are to fly as members of rescue crews to the site of a crash or a similar event and to render nursing service either at the site or in transit until hospital treatment is available. The girls selected are volunteers who have gone through a long course of general nursing and who have to do a ten hours' flying period to qualify. Officially known as Air Ambulance Orderlies, nurses selected have to have a good general training and undergo a further course with particular reference to emergency treatment. They are then posted to R.A.F. stations for training in flying duties.

The air training includes the efficient handling of stretchers and their contents in air conditions, the giving of oxygen and other skilled duties.

They are paid an extra 2s. 6d. per hour for every hour on flying duty, and when not so employed do normal nursing service on the ground. In flying they are to have suitable flying kit issued.

In order to benefit from the arrangement already announced whereby essential civilian uniforms may be obtained under the Concession, nurses must decide

before June 30th, whether they wish to come into this arrangement. The coupons must be given up to the specified organisation, or to the Local Authority or Hospital which employs the nurse. Those who have not given the necessary undertaking by June 30th will have to give up the full number of coupons for all future replacements of uniform. This will not apply to nurses who enter the profession after that date.

Since the commencement of active war in Australia, the need to protect the nurse's cap has become more urgent in view of the number of war workers who wear headdresses as part of their uniform, notably by women serving in canteens and teashops, and Girl Guides attached to aid posts, wear service uniforms with a white cap and a blue cape similar to those worn by nurses.

In England any attempt to protect the service cap is quite hopeless. It is considered becoming, and has been snatched by all and sundry.

We remember the excellent example of Queen Mary in the last war; whilst all the queens and royalties in Europe were floating around in nurses' uniform, Her Majesty, though unwearied in well doing in support of sick and wounded, remained her own incomparable self in becoming civilian dress.

The Canadian Nurses' Association has been invited to help supply nurses for our Civil Nursing Reserve in England—on the usual terms—but travelling expenses must be paid by applicants. This will, no doubt, restrict the supply.

Miss Nightingale's Crimean War coach has been returned to St. Thomas's Hospital after a visit to Esher, where it has been wonderfully restored by an expert coach-builder after suffering bombardment. We very much hope it will be placed on view at a price. Its journeys in the Crimea carrying Miss Nightingale on her missions of mercy would, we feel sure, make a very realistic story, and should be the means of raising a fund, not only to pay for its restoration, but also for inspiring listeners with a desire to follow her example.

Face to face as we all are with the tragedy of war, the glorious fighting spirit of Miss Nightingale should be a great inspiration to nurses throughout the world. *She* did not hesitate to smash doors behind which was stored food for starving patients.

From all seats of war where our people have failed to prepare for attack, the valour of British matrons and nurses has been emphasised by the Press. Hongkong, Singapore, Burma, the Bataan Peninsula, everywhere they have shown the keenest sense of duty, patients first, and in escaping the horrors of Japanese capture have endured the terrors of war in the most spirited manner. The leadership of Miss Edith Mann, Matron of the Civil Hospital, Mandalay, inspired heroism all around.

#### MISSING.

Montgomery, Sister Helen Louise, Q.A.I.M.N.S. Missing Malaya. Any information gratefully received by Mrs. G. Ashton, Kingsbury Court, Dunstable.

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