

NURSING ECHOES.

QUEEN'S £1,000 FOR CHILDREN.

Funds collected by members of the "Bundles for Britain" branches in the U.S.A. were recently sent to the Queen, with the request that the money be used for the good of the children in this country.

The Queen, who is deeply interested in child psychology, has allocated from this donation £1,000 for the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, to be used for the Hospital's Child Guidance Clinic. Her Majesty expressed the hope that the money would be used for constructive rather than administrative purposes.

Evacuation and the breaking up of homes has added greatly to problems of child behaviour, and the Queen's cheque will enable the Hospital for Sick Children to carry on their important work.

Her Majesty Queen Mary has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of 105 Queen's Nurses for service: 76 in England, 5 in Wales, 22 in Scotland, and 2 in Northern Ireland; one to date from January 1st, and 104 to date from April 1st, 1942.

The Editor writes in the *Queen's Nurses' Magazine* as follows:—

A Grave National Problem.

Much is being said and written about the "shortage of Queen's District Nurses," and the shortage is indeed a grave national problem. The work of the District Nurse is of greater importance than perhaps ever before, for is it not our work to "nurse the sick and the poor in their own homes," and the need for this is as great in war as in peace time, for the relatives of the sick cannot be spared from their work to give the necessary attention and the hospitals have not the number of beds available as in past days, so the country turns to the District Nurse, and I hope will not look in vain.

We who are already Queen's Nurses can perhaps help our service the most if we just stop to consider what we stand for, and how far our work and influence spreads through the big cities and the smallest villages. We are trained to cope with the most serious illnesses, to give the skilled attention that makes all the difference in the world to those who suffer, and we may be called upon to perform small and trivial duties; and it is perhaps one of the biggest compliments paid to us that the District Nurse is called upon, to advise or give comfort in all the family ailments and troubles, and that the people feel that there is someone they can turn to for help and whom they can rely upon.

So let us count our blessings and put our backs into our work, and work as we have never worked before. This is no time for petty grumbling. We know that the Queen's Institute is doing all in its power to make easier the many difficulties that some have to contend with. Meanwhile let us show our colleagues in other branches of the profession that Queen's District Nursing is second to none, and that we are proud to serve in its ranks, and that there is much attractive work for those who take the trouble to look for it.

Work that suits all tastes, work in the cities, living in Nurses' Homes, work in the country, living with a

relative if desired, work in the Highlands and in the hamlets of the Sussex Downs—there is much variety. General nursing, Health Visiting, T.B. work and Midwifery—all these branches are undertaken, and the preventive side of the work is no less interesting than the curative.

To the would-be candidate for the Queen's Roll I would only say that it takes the very best Nurse to become a Queen's Nurse.

At the quarterly meeting of the Scottish Council of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing in Edinburgh, Mr. Miller, hon. treasurer, reported that since October 16, 1941, the ordinary receipts and the ordinary payments had amounted to £6,920 and £8,898 respectively.

The salaries of the Queen's Nurses, as well as the salaries of district trainees and pupil midwives, had been increased, and the hope was expressed that this action would have the effect of attracting a larger number of nurses to the service, as the supply continued to cause concern.

The Duchess of Gloucester is to continue as President of the Scottish branch of the Institute.

To stimulate the flow of nursing recruits into the mental health services, the Mental Hospitals Committee of the London County Council, propose, reports the *Public Assistance Journal*, to establish, as an experiment subject to review at the end of six months, a preliminary training school for women nurses at Claybury Hospital, to provide an initial period of four weeks' training for 20 candidates at a time. This school will act as a feeder to the four mental hospitals north of the River Thames, but, should the scheme prove successful, the establishment of similar schools at other selected mental hospitals will be considered.

The scheme will call for the employment of an additional second assistant matron, who will devote all her time to the school, and for the provision of certain equipment. The extra cost involved will not exceed £80 during the current financial year, and £271 (average) in each subsequent year.

When he spoke at the opening ceremony in the West of Scotland emergency hospital of the first neuro-surgical unit to be established in Scotland, Mr. T. Johnston, Scottish Secretary of State, made an urgent appeal for more Scottish girls to enter for nursing tuberculosis and mental diseases, and pointed out the serious shortage created by the calling of nurses for service with the forces.

Two hundred nurses were needed immediately to enable more beds to be opened for patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. Mental hospitals were in urgent need of nurses who had experience of nursing mental patients, and, in addition to these, there were vacancies for 300 nurses in mental hospitals, with vacancies also for 100 student nurses in fever hospitals. They had now 10 first-class State-owned hospitals in Scotland and 66 convalescent hospitals also owned by the State, continued Mr. Johnston. They had been established to meet casualties from air bombing, and although this had not occurred, the hospitals were there and had to be fitted into the hospital administration of the country.

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