

### NURSING ECHOES.

Patriotic nurses will wish to thank Lord Reith for his selfless example. He has joined the Navy at 52, so that he may be doing something active in the war. His pay is 27s. 2d. a day, working on the staff of the Rear Admiral, Coastal Forces. He used to get £10,000 a year at Imperial Airways. The B.B.C. paid him £7,500, and the M.O.I. £5,000. In this age of avarice Lord Reith's example is really inspiring. Let us hope others will prove their love of country by following it.

Both in England and Scotland there is strong opposition that the V.A.D. organisation should be grafted on to the A.T.S., as proposed by the Army Council. It is claimed that any such move would ruin the V.A.D., not only as a war time entity, but also end it as a peace time organisation preparing for emergency.

As the V.A.D. has always been a somewhat privileged organisation socially, and having adopted full nurses' uniform, its members claim that they would lose status as nurses, and that they would not receive the same respect in the wards from patients, nor the immunities which nursing services enjoy from enemy action, if merged in the Auxiliary Territorial Service. All these arguments are, no doubt, true.

The majority of nurses have never come in contact with cases of smallpox, and it was to be hoped they never would do so. Owing to inoculation, the terrible results of this disease have almost disappeared in Great Britain.

Now, alas! war has brought another disaster in its trail, and both in England and Scotland smallpox has been introduced from abroad, and immediate vaccination is recommended by medical officers, and should be at once obeyed, as precautions taken when the first cases occurred have not prevented the spread of the disease in Swindon and Glasgow.

Upwards of twenty cases have occurred in Glasgow; of seven from a ship, two have died.

We urge everyone in the vicinity of infection to be vaccinated *without delay*.

The Ministry of Health are launching a summer campaign for the immunisation of children against diphtheria. So far three million children have been protected against the disease. The Ministry want at least four million more.

Diphtheria kills 3,000 children in an average year.

Summer time is the best period to have the children treated, as the diphtheria epidemic starts in October and protection takes about three months to develop.

The mother of a student nurse, herself an S.R.N., writes:

"I have been a reader of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for many years, and think the following quotation from a letter from my daughter may interest you:

"Our Sister Tutor is surely a very remarkable woman. We are now studying anatomy, and her opening remarks, when presenting the articulated skeleton to our class, were:—

" "Pupils, you see before you the skeleton of a man, whose bones please treat with respect. Of what he was in life we have no knowledge, but we may surmise that if his circumstances were affluent, his bones would probably be mouldering in the grave, of little use to the living. As it is, let us realise that the accurate knowledge we shall gain from handling his skeleton may be the means of knowledge, once acquired, which may be of the utmost benefit to his living fellow men. He is to be envied in death if not in life." "

We congratulate our correspondent that her daughter is being directed in her studies not only by a remarkable teacher but by a highly sensitive human being.

Members of the Nursing profession are not only working ardently in caring for the sick, but many of them have given generously of their spare time and money. We learn that at the Middlesex Colony at Shenley the staff have subscribed £2,070 5s. 6d. up to date to the War Savings Group since April, 1940, as well as supporting a staff Comforts Fund which is run to provide comforts for the men on active service—282 woollies were made and sent last Christmas, and there is also a group working for the Merchant Navy Comforts Fund, "so we are trying to do our bit," writes one of these invaluable workers.

The *Quarterly Bulletin* of the Frontier Nursing Service, edited by Mrs. Mary Breckinridge, R.N., S.C.M., LL.D. one of Great Britain's most loyal American friends, is to hand, and read, as always, with great pleasure and profit. But the news that Garden House has been completely consumed by fire, cause unknown, arouses our intense sympathy. The loss of this charming and most useful building is indeed a serious matter for this fine Nursing Service; but the wonderful spirit in which everyone has met and helped to mitigate the disaster is truly American, and we are not surprised to learn from Miss Agnes Lewis' note to Mrs. Breckinridge that—

"We really have gotten very well settled down in our new routine, and we think we are going to manage until there is a new building. I am glad you like the tentative plans. . . . Your insisting on rough plans immediately was a wonderful idea. I'm sure that it was not altogether that you wanted them in order to have an idea of the cost of rebuilding, but partly to get our minds on constructive things and the work that was ahead of us and of the loss which, of course, was a blow to all of us. The night I sat down and sketched the rough plans—very rough on Celia Coit—and Jerry turned them into neat drawings—I was greatly rested and refreshed, and then it was that I realised that your asking for them was for two reasons, and it worked."

Is not this the spirit in which to meet disaster—and incidentally to win the war? We have no doubt the Garden House will arise without loss of time like a Phoenix from the flames!

"The gods love courage armed with confidence,  
And prayers fit to pull them down; Weak tears  
And troubled hearts, the dull twins of cold spirits,  
They sit and smile at."

BEAUMONT AND FLETCHER.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)