

The troops were a grand crowd of men, and in spite of many difficulties, they made the best of things assisted by an occasional grouse. We were sorry after seven weeks to see them leaving us and the ship for an unknown future. They were in very high spirits and in search of adventure.

The next ship I boarded was a similar one. The hospital was equipped with 68 cots. This time our passengers were women and children, R.A.F. men and later R.I.N. men. The children made a great change socially and professionally for soon a case of measles was reported. This was followed by 31 other cases; many of these were sent to isolation hospital at their destination.

Work among men was similar. Colds and pyrexia and more dysentery. One case of angina pectoris was put ashore, a case of jaundice recovered. An appendicectomy was performed on a very hot afternoon in the ship's small theatre. The surgeon and attendants' clothing was soaked through with perspiration. The patient made good recovery and got up on the 10th day.

My third ship, normally a luxury liner, was not so well adapted. Hospital accommodation consisted of two small badly ventilated wards of two and three beds, a treatment and medical inspection room.

The passenger list consisted of mixed British and Allied Services, and a few women and children. One woman was very ill with glandular fever and shingles, but recovered. A case of pneumonia and one of appendicitis were put ashore. Hospital cases were fewer and mostly pyrexia. Several cases of abscess were treated. There were also 145 cases of convalescent invalids. These were mental, medical, tuberculosis and surgical cases. The surgical cases were mostly amputation of leg or arm, and medicals mostly gastric, and one diabetic. They were mostly very cheerful. Supervision was all that was needed. We were able to collect some deck chairs and games from one port of call to make their trip more pleasant.

The economy in water on all ships made washing a problem; particularly with the heat. Laundry was an even greater problem.

The strictest black-out regulations were observed which tended to make the heat and crowding more difficult to bear. Lifebelts were carried at all times, and lifeboat drill and practice was frequent. Fortunately we had no real alarms.

Our chief anxiety was the absence of any mail throughout the six months' trip. Radio news was in great demand.

There was a tense atmosphere of subdued excitement when British shores were at last sighted. It was generally expected that the weather would be damp and cold to greet us, but this was not the case. We arrived home on a glorious Spring day, in time to see the trees in bud and the early shrubs and Spring flowers in bloom.

Thus ended a most interesting and enjoyable trip.

#### BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL.

MISS FRANCES BRASSFIELD, midwife, Portsmouth, has been awarded the British Empire Medal.

Nurse Brassfield was called to a patient during an air raid. Bombs fell very close to the house, the windows of which were blown in. The nurse placed her patient under a table, and later twins were born. Another bomb fell, damaging the house, and as the debris fell all around Nurse Brassfield protected the mother and babies with her own body. Although suffering from shock, she then arranged for her charges to be conveyed to hospital.

#### THE GEORGE CROSS.

At a recent investiture held by the King, seven people were given the George Cross in place of the Empire Gallantry Medal previously awarded them. Among them was Sister Dorothy Thomas, of the Middlesex Hospital.

## THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

### "IMMORTALITY CALENDAR."

NEW YORK, U.S.A.,  
December 17th, 1941.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, *President*,  
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES  
OF GREAT BRITAIN.

MY DEAR MRS. FENWICK,

Your letter of November 12th and the beautiful "Immortality Calendar" for 1942 have just come. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your sending this lovely publication, which contains so many thoughts that we need to have in the forefront of our minds in these days of sorrow. By this time you know that once again we are with you, even in closer sympathy than we were during the last war. I deeply appreciate your thought in sending this calendar, which I shall cherish.

We are redoubling our efforts in our defence work and are really glad that at last the stimulus has come which makes no delays or excuses possible.

Cordially yours,

JULIA C. STIMSON, R.N. *President*.

P.S.—You may be interested to know that my youngest sister, Dr. Barbara Stimson, is now serving at the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road. She and her friend, Dr. Ascha Bean, from Vassar College, were the first two women to respond to the British appeal for women physicians. She left here in August. She is very happy in her work because she has been allowed to carry on with her own speciality, which is fractures.

THE VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL,  
VANCOUVER, B.C.

MY DEAR MRS. FENWICK,

December 30th, 1941.

Will you accept my sincere appreciation and thanks for the delightful copy of the "Immortality Calendar" which I was so happy to receive in the name of the Canadian Nurses' Association. Also for your thoughtful letter which we were specially glad to receive at this time, knowing how very full your days must be. I am going to give both the Calendar and your letter to our National Office (after I have had time to enjoy it). Each year Miss Macdonald seems to compile a more attractive Calendar than in previous years, and so her 1942 "Immortality" does come at a time when we all need the courage and hope expressed in these verses.

So much has happened during this past year, and even since I last wrote you, that I think many will be glad, or probably I should say few will be sorry, to ring down the curtain of 1941.

I know we will all be in each other's thoughts on Thursday when the Empire and the United States joins in spirit and prayer for courage, hope and peace.

With my kindest thoughts to you personally and to all kind friends at 19, Queen's Gate, and with every good wish for your welfare in 1942.

Sincerely Yours,

GRACE M. FAIRLEY.

#### THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN.

Bombs dropped on the Princess Elizabeth of York Hospital, Shadwell, have led to its amalgamation with another famous children's hospital, the Queen's Hospital, Bethnal Green. The "Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children" will be their new name, and they will receive in-patients at two palatial houses at Bayford, Hertfordshire. The war prevented the Princess Elizabeth Hospital moving to a new £100,000 building at Banstead, Surrey, but after hostilities the combined hospital will go there.

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