

of the Register of Nurses was placed upon the table, so that the scope of this great national work was apparent. The majority of the members of the deputation spoke from very expert points of view, and the two women Members of Parliament received the deputation with great courtesy, and promised to consider further the Memorandum placed before them.

Later, at an Open Meeting for Nurses, held by the Royal College of Nursing, Miss G. M. Hardy made a convincing protest against the degrading of present standards of State Registration and of legal recognition of a semi-trained Assistant Nurse, opinions which received a great deal of public sympathy from those present in the room. The meeting was summarily terminated and dismissed by the Secretary, Miss F. G. Goodall.

Since which time correspondence has taken place in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING on this burning question, and the report of Miss Hardy's visit of inspection of institutions for the chronic sick appears in the February issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. There is no doubt that the work of this committee is of great value, and should receive the support of Registered Nurses, not only for their own security, but in support of the safety of sick persons of all classes.

The meeting then terminated. Tea, a gift from overseas, was served, sweetened with sugar from U.S.A.

OBITUARY.

THE PASSING OF MISS JANE THORNTON RUDDY, S.R.N., M.B.C.N.

The Fever Service and the Nursing Profession generally sustain the irreparable loss of a loyal friend and valiant fighter in the passing of Miss Jane Thornton Ruddy, S.R.N., M.B.C.N., who died suddenly, after a short illness, on February 25th.

Miss Ruddy received her General Training at the Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury, and in her distinguished career had held the appointments of Matron at Yarnfield Sanatorium, Stone, Staffs, and at Merthyr General Hospital. During the last war she acted as Sister at Lord Derby's Hospital, and in 1919 she resumed her post as Matron at Stone, from which she was appointed Matron of Highgrove Isolation Hospital, East Grinstead, which post she held for 19 years, and where she died in harness.

An unwavering supporter of movements which stood for the independence of the Nursing Profession, she was a faithful member of the British College of Nurses, a Vice-President of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association, and Hon. Secretary of the League of Fever Nurses, in which her sterling, dependable personality won the affection and confidence of her colleagues.

In her life of many-sided beneficent activities she appears to have been dominated by a burning sense of justice and a desire to give of her utmost for the betterment of humanity.

The funeral service took place in the Roman Catholic Chapel, where a Requiem Mass was held, followed by the interment in Mount Noddy Cemetery. Among those who attended were Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ruddy (brother and sister-in-law), Miss M. Ruddy (niece), members of the Hospital Staff; representatives of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association, Miss H. McLoughlin, President, Miss B. West, S.R.N., Hon. Secretary, and Miss L. McSmith, member; of the League of Fever Nurses, Miss Barcham, President; of the British College of Nurses, Miss A. S. Bryson, Secretary; Dr. J. Petrie, East Grinstead Medical Officer of Health, and members of the Urban District Council, and many residents paid tribute to her memory.

A mass of lovely flowers fluttering in the Spring breeze bore witness of the esteem in which she was held.

THE WAR

Long have we fallen from our high estate,
Long have we lingered long and late;
But the tenderness of God
Is from age to age the same,
And His mercy endureth for ever.

John Oxenham.

The Armada of 1588.

From Canada Miss Mary L. Jacobs sent us at Christmas a most inspiring card of Sir Francis Drake, standing thumbs up, "Heave or sink it. Leave or Drink it. We are Masters of the Sea." We pass the time of day every morning. That is not to say that the passing through the Straits of Dover of the German battleships, and the deathless valour of the airmen who died in attacking them can ever be forgotten. This episode of the war will go down to history as the most unmerited humiliation our Navy has ever suffered at the hands of ignorant politicians, who in recent years starved this Royal Service to the verge of futility, by their mean-spirited policy of appeasement.

His Majesty the King has bestowed posthumously the highest honours on the defenders of England's honour.

"Soft sigh the winds of heaven o'er his grave
While the billows mournful roll,
And the mermaids' song condole
Singing glory to the soul
Of the brave."

Ne Touchez Pas.

Momentous events, especially in the Pacific, have taken place since our last issue, and the horrible cruelty with which the Japanese (semi-barbarians) are waging war stirs the utmost grief and indignation throughout the civilised world, and the British, American, Australian and Dutch peoples are all out to crush the peril to human existence.

Of one method we strongly disapprove, and that is the French method of condoning neglect, and then punishing selected victims.

Let our politicians realise that but few of those in power during the past decade have any right to blame anyone but themselves for neglect of duty. No excuse can avail them in failing to realise and take action to protect the Empire from the murderous preparations of Germany and Japan.

We must have no scapegoats in high places. Our heroic Prime Minister, without whose courageous leadership Hitler and his gang might now be supping in Buckingham Palace, has won, and will retain, the passionate devotion of the nation. Let any help he requires be forthcoming. Hitler fears him, and well he may.

President Roosevelt to the American People.

"On the road ahead there lies hard work—gruelling work—day and night, every hour and every minute. I was about to add that ahead there lies sacrifice for all of us. But it is not correct to use that word. The United States does not consider it a sacrifice to do all we can, to give one's best to our nation, when the nation is fighting for its existence and its future life."

For upwards of two years we have watched the sincere and patient policy of the President of the United States educating and guiding the American people into the path of duty. He is the greatest President since Lincoln, to be recognised as such now and for all time.

The former prevented disruption after the Civil War—President Roosevelt will lead United States along the straight path to the world's salvation, where he realises the British people have led the way.

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