

ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS NURSING SERVICE.

MISS ELIZABETH SMELLIE, C.B.E., R.R.C.

Well Merited Recognition.

We are not surprised to learn from *The Canadian Nurse* that the nurses of Canada felt very proud when, in May, 1941, it was announced that Miss Elizabeth Smellie, C.B.E., R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief in Canada of the R.C.A.M.C. Nursing Service, had been requested by the military authorities to supervise the organisation of the Canadian Women's Army Corps. It stands to reason that the woman chosen for such a difficult task would find full scope for a capacity for enlightened leadership, as well as for the exercise of unlimited patience and tact. It goes without saying that Miss Smellie proved herself worthy of the trust reposed in her and no one will be surprised (though everyone will be pleased) to hear that when the task of organisation was successfully completed, most cordial appreciation of her services was expressed to her by Colonel the Hon. J. L. Ralston in these words, "I value more than I can ever say the work Matron Smellie has done in connection with bringing this institution to the point where it is a going concern. Matron Smellie has travelled from one end of Canada to the other making a preliminary survey which has been invaluable and we are looking forward to a continuance of her support." Colonel Ralston also said that, while he was keenly aware that the job had not been an easy one, Miss Smellie had done it so well because of her wide experience and understanding interest.

The direction of the C.W.A.C. has been assumed by Mrs. Joan B. Kennedy, who has been appointed Officer Administering the Canadian Women's Army Corps with the title of Senior Commander. Mrs. Kennedy has been staff officer for Military District No. 11 since August, and was the first officer appointed to the Corps.

The further progress of the Corps will be watched with interest by the nursing profession which, in the person of one of its most distinguished members, had the honour of organising it.

MISS NIGHTINGALE'S COACH RESTORED.

When members of the nursing profession learned that in the bombing of beautiful St. Thomas's Hospital the original carriage used by Miss Nightingale in the Crimea, and carefully preserved, had been shattered, indignation was hot and strong. Now comes the good news that early this month this ancient carriage, spic and span in livery of blue, yellow and red, and drawn

by a pair of white horses, will be driven across Westminster Bridge. This carriage was given to Miss Nightingale by a British General to replace the Russian farm cart she previously used, and its return to St. Thomas's will no doubt be hailed as an historic event.

For many weeks it has been at Esher, reports the *Evening Standard*, where an old family of coachbuilders have patiently worked to restore it.

A celebrity will take the driver's seat when the coach makes its journey from Esher. It is hoped that M. Maisky, the Soviet Ambassador, will be at St. Thomas's to welcome it, together with Mrs. Prentice, a relation of Florence Nightingale.

After the Crimean War the coach was brought back to England, and for some years was placed in museums at Chesterfield and Derby. In recent years it stood in the Nightingale wing at St. Thomas's.

When the hospital was hit a second time the old coach was wrecked.

The pieces were carefully collected, put roughly together and taken to Esher, to be rebuilt by experts who restored Queen Victoria's Coronation carriage.

In rubbing down the coachwork they came upon the original colouring—blue, with a red centre and yellow lining.

It was found possible to preserve this old paintwork.

One wheel was past repair and a new one was made. The original shaft would not take the weight for a road journey, but this has been preserved and a temporary shaft made specially for the trip to London.

The work is being paid for by Mr. Granville Bradshaw, an engineer of East Horsley, Surrey, whose wife is a life governor of St. Thomas's.



MISS ELIZABETH SMELLIE, C.B.E., R.R.C.,
Matron-in-Chief in Canada, Royal Canadian Army
Medical Corps Nursing Service.

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