

THE WAR.

"OUR FINEST HOUR."

We have from time to time been privileged, owing to the courtesy of Mrs. Hilda Trevelyan-Thomson, to publish some of her inspiring verses which have been deeply appreciated. We now learn that under the title of "Our Finest Hour," and other verses, Mrs. Trevelyan-Thomson has issued a series of touching poems in book form for the benefit of prisoners of war, through the Red Cross and St. John Fund, to which Sir Cyril Norwood, President of St. John's College, Oxford, has written the following Foreword.

"These little poems are simple, sincere and musical. The authoress has really felt what she writes, and therefore they should help many who have felt as she does. I hope that mothers everywhere, who have sons and daughters on service and in danger, will, in reading them, find a measure of comfort, help and inspiration in these days of continuing struggle and sacrifice when at last

"The dawn is breaking for the free,
The invincible tide sweeps on to victory."

To all Allied Prisoners of War.

Yours is the hardest test of all to bear.
You were as runners, pressing towards the goal,
Your pulses leaping with that ardent joy,
With one cruel stroke, the shining accolade,
So dearly coveted, so nearly won,
Was lost, before achievement was attained.
And now you stand aside and grimly wait,
Patience your sword, and fortitude your shield;
High courage leaps to meet hard circumstance—
Swift and unswerving as the eagle's flight,
Our thoughts speed to you on the wings of prayer.
For you we strive more valiantly, work harder yet,
For loyalty to you defies despair,
Deep as our trust in God—our pride in you.
Courage! The dawn is breaking for the free,
The invincible tide sweeps on to victory.

This book of verse should be by the bedside of all of us whose last thoughts at night are with those valiant men and boys, alert and often sleepless that we may rest in peace. Its price is only 2s. 6d., and it can be obtained at Harrods, Hatchards, and Selfridges.

We are sending copies to some lonely mothers and sisters overseas. It will make a very acceptable Christmas gift.

The Beloved "Pucca Red Cape."

Dame Katharine Jones, D.B.E., R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief Q.A.I.M.N.S., has recently returned to England after a three weeks' visit of inspection in North Africa, where, as can be realised, she spent a very strenuous and interesting time. She was, of course, warmly welcomed by her junior colleagues, whose work is of inestimable value to the comfort and recovery of the sick and wounded and so great an asset in the progress of war. As the Matron-in-Chief holds high military rank in the British Army, she was received with honour by military authorities. We have long revered the "pucca Red Capes" and grey uniform of this fine military nursing service known all over the British Empire. It is to be hoped that there will be no attempted interference from the Ministry of Health with our revered military nursing service, than *nothing* could be more disastrous.

Died for Their Country.

It is recorded, with deep regret, that several Sisters serving abroad with Q.A.I.M.N.S. and its Reserve, pre-

viously notified as missing, are now presumed to have been killed in action at sea on December 7th, 1942.

The names of Miss Katharine Frances Mary White, S.R.N., Miss Mary Woodhouse, S.R.N., and Miss Mair E. Evans are included in the list of those brave Nurses who have died for their country.

Penicillin Saves Wounded Soldiers.

The *Daily Telegraph* reports that Prof. H. W. Florey, one of the pioneers of treatment by the new drug, penicillin, which is claimed to be many hundred times more potent than M. and B. 693, is now with the Eighth Army in Sicily experimenting with wounded soldiers and lecturing Army doctors on the possibilities of the drug.

He is accompanied by Brig. Hugh Cairns, Nuffield Professor of Surgery at Oxford, and other famous specialists.

Penicillin, which is obtained from a minute blue-green fungus, prevents the growth of certain disease bacteria in the human body. Local application of the drug to infected wounds has also proved most effective. Its manufacture in even minute quantities is so tedious and lengthy that the entire output is reserved for the Services.

Prof. Florey, who, with his wife, recently described in the *Lancet* the first extensive trial of the new drug, has been seconded to the Eighth Army from the Oxford School of Pathology.

Mental Illness due to the War.

The Medical Conference of the Ex-Services' Welfare Society, recently held in London, discussed the treatment of disabled Servicemen and women suffering from war neurosis and psychoses.

Dr. William McAlister, the Society's consulting specialist for Scotland, said that so far as could be observed there had been no appreciable increase in the incidence of mental illness directly traceable to war stress. In the interests of the patient and the State the work selected for the neurotic should be adapted to his capacity. Men of low mental categories were doing good work in the Army because the military authorities had taken the trouble to fit them into jobs for which they were suited.

It was pointed out in the conference that this principle was just as applicable to industry as to the armed Services, and opened up a vista of what might be done in the future. Psychiatrists in industry would be able to assess the mental and nervous capacity of an individual, to detect any special aptitude, and to place him in a situation where he would be happy and would give the best possible return for his money.

Madame Chiang Kai-Shek's Tribute to Britain.

Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek has addressed the following message to the British people:—

"On this the fourth anniversary of Britain's declaration of war against the aggressor nations I should like to express my admiration of the valiant fighting spirit of the people of Great Britain. The people of China for more than six years have withstood similar soul-searing experiences which you have undergone of being pounced upon by a merciless and predatory neighbour. We anticipate, therefore, all the more eagerly that in the near future our bonds of fellowship will be further and immeasurably strengthened by our fighting literally shoulder to shoulder as comrades in arms towards certain victory in the annihilation of those evil forces inimical to the well-being of mankind."

New Zealand and Australia Welcome Mrs. Roosevelt.

Mrs. Roosevelt, the wife of the great President of the United States of America, has had a right royal welcome in New Zealand and Australia where she has visited American men on active service, in training and in hospital; she was personally entertained by Mr. Curtin at the Prime Minister's Lodge.

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