

## KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR LONDON.

### THE VALUE OF THE VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS.

With such limited space and paper, it is almost impossible to report the activities of the hospital world, but we have been interested for so many years in King Edward's Hospital Fund for London that a word in support of its good work is better late than never. The Annual Meeting was held on July 23rd, at the House of Lords, and H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester presided. We are pleased to note that he availed himself of the occasion to impress those present with the value of the voluntary hospitals.

His Royal Highness said:—

"While making no comment on the discussions now taking place regarding the future of hospital services, he thought it would scarcely be right to let the occasion pass without a word about what were to be regarded as fundamental matters. For example, voluntary hospitals afforded an opportunity to many thousands of people to take a practical and personal interest in the welfare of the patients. This might be in the form of voluntary contributions in money or kind, by participation in contributory schemes or work's funds or by service ungrudgingly given on committees and boards of management. 'Voluntary activities such as these which lift the individual out of the sphere of his or her own personal interests and offer a means of service to the community should be encouraged and preserved,' said H.R.H. 'They are part and parcel of the democratic structure of society, and upon their interaction with the official provision through the State and through the Local Authorities depends the power of the whole system to grow and to adapt itself to changing conceptions of the public need. And then, too, on the medical side, there are the underlying and profoundly important elements of freedom and elasticity. We want to make sure that central supervision and co-ordination shall leave room for those whose ideas may not immediately commend themselves to those in authority. We recall the opposition which greeted Lord Lister and other innovators in their day, and we wonder whether perhaps the opposition would have been insurmountable under a hospital system conforming too closely to an established scheme. We believe that the voluntary hospitals do provide a means of affording that most essential element of freedom, and that it would be sad if in our anxiety to achieve other objectives this precious thing were to disappear.'"

We warmly approve this expression of opinion.

### THE NURSING RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE.

The report of the Nursing Recruitment Committee, presented by Dr. H. Morley Fletcher, stated that during 1942 over 1,800 of the candidates referred to hospitals in London and the provinces from the Recruitment Centre were accepted as student nurses, in addition to about 250 recruits enrolled as V.A.D.s, nursing auxiliaries, assistant nurses, etc. Probably many more who received information and advice at the Recruitment Centre have subsequently entered hospital for training. In all, 5,500 new candidates were registered and advised. Nearly 3,000 interviews were given, over 12,000 letters received, and over 17,000 sent out. Numbers of prospective nurses were helped to obtain their release from other forms of national service in order that they might begin to train for their future career.

The full report is exceedingly instructive, and in our opinion proves that with consistent organisation there is not, and never has been any necessity for de-grading the standards of nursing attained through the Nurses' Registration Acts of 1919.

The future work of the King's Fund so far as nursing is concerned should be to revert to the State Registration of

Nurses' standard, before the injurious legislation inaugurated by the Minister of Health made it possible to grant legal status to untrained women through his Nurses Act, 1943.

Already there are signs that this will have to be done—if Nurse Training Schools are to continue to exist.

## THE NURSES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1943.

As we reported in our last issue the Nurses (Scotland) Bill passed all the stages in the House of Lords, and we now learn that it received the King's Assent on August 5th last, a sad event for Scottish nurses, so many of whom are alive to its de-grading provisions, not only in granting legal status to untrained women, but compelling Registered Nurses to pay any deficit on the organisation of the Assistant Nurses Roll—a grossly unjust provision.

## A DEMAND FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Congratulations to all concerned in the organisation of the enthusiastic meeting of women in the Central Hall, Westminster, held on Saturday, September 4th, claiming equal citizenship for men and women. Mrs. Rebecca D. Sieff was in the chair, the speeches were irrefutable, and a collection taken in the hall produced a response of £570! We hope to give space to this important meeting in our next issue, as justice for Registered Nurses should be included in any Bill drafted for equality of men and women before the law.

## APPOINTMENTS.

### MATRON.

**Llanely and District General Hospital, Llanely.**—Miss Veronica Allen, S.R.N., S.C.M., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at St. Paul's Eye Hospital, Liverpool; Blackburn and East Lancashire Royal Infirmary; Liverpool Maternity Hospital; and Charing Cross Hospital, London. Miss Allen has been Staff Nurse and Night Sister at St. Paul's Eye Hospital, Liverpool; Staff Nurse at the Royal Infirmary, Blackburn; Holiday Sister, acting as Night Sister, Theatre Sister, Out-patients' and Casualty Sister, Children's Ward Sister and Private Patients' Block Sister, at the Westminster Hospital, London. She has also been Theatre Sister and Sister-in-Charge of Private Wards at the Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital; Relief Administrative Sister at Charing Cross Hospital, London; Sister Housekeeper at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan; and Deputy-Matron at the City General Hospital, York.

**Groundsdown Sanatorium, Tittensor, Stoke-on-Trent.**—Miss E. F. Baldwin, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron. She has been Staff Nurse, Ward Sister and Theatre Sister at Grove Park Tuberculosis Hospital.

### SISTER-IN-CHARGE.

**General Hospital, South Shields.**—Miss Eleanor Brown, S.R.N., has been appointed Departmental Sister-in-Charge of the Maternity Department. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Leicester; and the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne, where she has been Staff Midwife. Miss Brown has also been Night Sister and Ward Sister at Westcotes Maternity Home, Leicester; Ward Sister—Deputy Matron at Greenbank Maternity Hospital, Darlington; and Matron at the Lindrick Emergency Maternity Home, near Worksop.

### MATRON RETIRES AT MOTHERWELL.

Now retired after serving for 30 years as Matron of the Burgh Hospital, Motherwell, Miss Mary Stewart has been presented with a cheque by the public as a token of their respect and gratitude.

The presentation took place at a gathering, when many tributes were paid to Miss Stewart, including one from ex-Baillie Smith, convener of the Hospitals Committee of Motherwell Town Council. Miss Stewart was also made the recipient of a cheque from the staff of the Public Health Department and hospitals, the presentation being made by the assistant matron, Sister Roberts.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)