

NURSING ECHOES.

Pride of place in this month's Journal certainly must be awarded to the Broadcast Talk by Dame Katharine Jones, D.B.E., R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief Q.A.I.M.N.S., on her visit to North Africa to inspect our nurses on Active Service. It is a most inspiring report and, we feel sure, will be read by colleagues working at home with pride and appreciation. It will, of course, be filed in the History Section of the British College of Nurses, Ltd.

We have also received from the Under Secretary of State for War a copy of "A Broadcast Talk to North America" by Dame Katharine Jones, which we regret must be held over until our next issue, as space and paper is at a premium in these days. We realise that our American colleagues are as vitally interested as we are in the history of Military Nursing. This valuable Broadcast Talk will add another chapter to the Nightingale inspiration of military nursing in the Crimea. We have read it with sincerest appreciation.

Nettleden Lodge, Hemel Hempstead, is a charming place, and has been opened by the Soldiers, Sailors' and Airmen's Families' Association as an Emergency Home for Servicemen's children deprived of their mothers' care for such reasons as death, prolonged illness, and in certain cases, desertion.

The house stands in 43 acres of ground and has good playgrounds, including a big covered shed for games on wet days, and lovely flower and vegetable gardens. Nettleden is in charge of an experienced Matron, Miss O. M. Knott, S.R.N., M.B.C.N., and skilled staff, and we feel sure everything will be done for the happiness, health and general well-being of the children sent there. Fathers will be very welcome at Nettleden Lodge when they have the opportunity to come and see their children, and arrangements can be made with the Matron regarding near-by billets.

The elder children will go to school daily; the little ones to be taught at Nettleden, according to approved modern methods. Handicrafts of all sorts will be encouraged. The children, after prayers, will be taught to think especially of their parents before going to bed.

Everything appears to be planned for the happiness and welfare in this beautiful home of the

children of those men in the Fighting Forces who are serving the dear country we all love. There is, moreover, a very nice bungalow which will be used as a sanatorium.

The next good news is the report of the decision of the British Medical Association at a meeting held recently in London, at which it registered emphatic opposition to the establishment of a whole-time State Medical Service. By 200 votes to 10 it decided "That the creating of a whole-time salaried State Medical Service is not in the best interests of the community."

The occasion was the opening of the annual representative meeting of the B.M.A. Lord Dawson of Penn, Physician-in-Ordinary to the King, was elected President, a wise appointment, as his professional prestige renders him independent, which will evidently be of the utmost value when Mr. Ernest Brown, Minister of Health, issues his White Paper on the State Medical Service.

Mr. H. S. Souttar, Chairman of the Council of the B.M.A., emphasised that nothing in the nature of negotiations had taken place between their body and the Ministry, and they would not be under any obligation whatever to accept any proposal the White Paper might contain.

The meeting agreed "That it is not in the public interest that the State should convert the Medical Profession into a salaried branch of

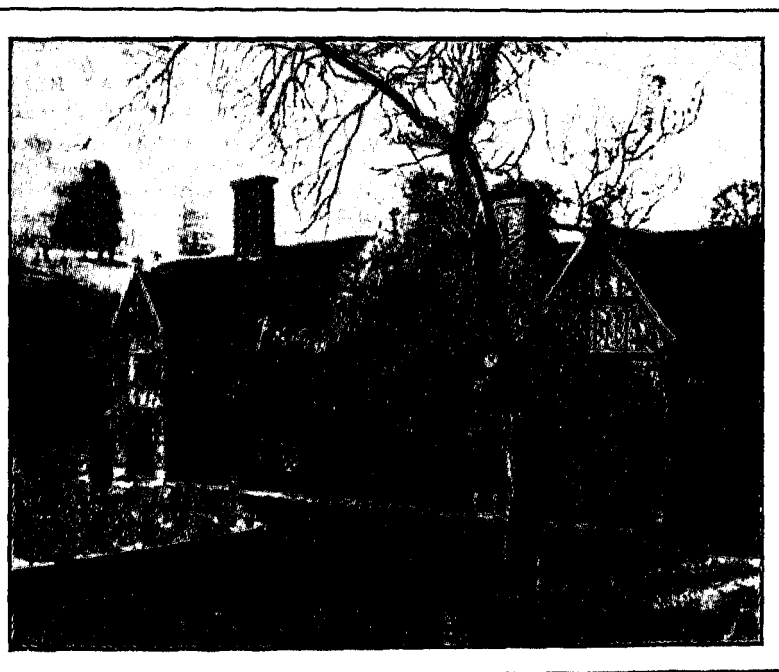
central or local government services," and "The loyalty and obligation of a doctor rendering personal health service to an individual patient should be to that patient and to none other."

The recommendation of the Association that a complete medical service should be closely co-ordinated and developed by the application of a planned national health policy was accepted. Strong opposition to being governed by lay local authorities was unanimous.

It is this fatal policy supported by the Royal College of Nursing which has caused the downfall of nursing standards for the time being.

The Medical Profession cannot stand too firmly for professional control; the whole welfare and safety of national standards of health depends upon it.

A V.A.D. on the wireless seems to have roused the nursing community for once. We did not hear her



NETTLEDEN LODGE, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTS.

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