

Hospitals were far away in one direction, and most of the British ones were in other parts of the country. . . . So we parted, arranging to meet again in Algiers on a certain date.

After seeing all I could, which meant several large Hospitals, all working under conditions of total warfare in this area, I started off on a long drive eastwards through magnificent country.

The Hospitals "lay out" was much the same in each case, both British and American, *i.e.*, Nissen huts, which housed the cook-house, the offices, the operating-theatres, and X-ray room (all wonderfully equipped), and the acute medical and surgical wards. Then the tents, containing literally hundreds of beds, many occupied by patients suffering from malaria—up-patients, but kept in Hospital to receive the modern treatment for this disease, which has been so successful. Most of these men leave hospital after 15 days' treatment. The Field Hospital equipment is very good, and, with the most welcome gifts of Hospital comforts supplied by the Red Cross, the Sisters can make the patients really comfortable.

Then I was taken to the Sisters' quarters, a collection of lean-to tents, two Sisters sleeping in each, the whole surrounded by barbed wire to keep out any light-fingered local visitors. I slept in one of those tents—slept like a top in the warm fresh air. In the morning, I joined the Sisters in their mess for breakfast, a large marquee, room for 50 or 80 Sisters to have their meals in relays.

Everywhere, sanitation is primitive, water is very scarce. Laundry is impossible—supplies of necessities are hard to get. The town is miles away—but who cares?—not the Q.A.s or American and Canadian Nurses. They are busy nursing all the hundreds of patients lying in the tents and huts just across the path.

I should like to tell Canada that I visited one of their Hospitals, and found a Matron whom I had met in England. This was one of the two Hospitals I saw which were entirely tented. It was a wonderful unit. Other Canadian Sisters were already in Sicily.

At one point we found an American Hospital, and immediately turned in to visit it—just in time to be given a very good lunch. We were welcomed by the O.C. and Chief Nurse. I wish you could have seen that unit. It was not complete, but the atmosphere of the wards which were already occupied was grand. One could feel the right spirit, without the remark of the Chief Nurse to prove it. The Chief Nurse said: "It's grim, indeed, but I wouldn't have missed this experience for a million dollars."

She let me go and speak to two British soldiers who had been brought in the day before, seriously injured. Both were already comfortable in their plaster splints. In our Hospitals, too, I saw American soldiers also brought into the nearest ward when injured, where they received immediate expert treatment and nursing care. I saw with my own eyes the wonderful medical and nursing care which is being given to your soldiers.

On the appointed day, Col. Aaron met me again, and we spent our last day together meeting British and American doctors and nurses. One of the last things I did was to make a statement to the Press, and I hope they, too, have been able to pass on to you some of the information I gave them. . . .

To all American and Canadian graduate nurses I would send greetings from their colleagues and Sisters, the British State Registered Nurses, and especially from those in North Africa, where good nursing has been done by all. And if I may be allowed to send one personal message, then it is an affectionate greeting to one particular American—my sister-in-law, of Seattle, Washington, from her three British sisters-in-law, who hope she will visit them as soon as possible after the war.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday, 20th October, 1943, at 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, at 2.30 p.m. The President (Mrs. Bedford Fenwick) was in the Chair.

Prayers having been read by the Secretary, the Minutes were confirmed and signed.

Vote of Thanks to Miss G. M. Hardy.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Gladys M. Hardy, Member of the Council, for drafting with the President a "Suggested Syllabus for a Sister Tutors' Course," which had been supplied by request to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, which had the matter under consideration.

Correspondence.

The following letters of thanks for resolutions expressing the gratitude of Fellows and Members in General Meeting assembled—to the Fighting Forces and their Registered Nurses—were read and received with sincere gratification:—

From the First Lord of the Admiralty:—

Admiralty, Whitehall.

DEAR MRS. FENWICK,—

I am most grateful for your letter of the 13th September. The resolution passed by your Annual General Meeting will be very much appreciated by the Navy and the Board of Admiralty, and will give much pleasure.

Yours sincerely,

A. V. ALEXANDER.

From the Secretary of State for War:—

War Office, Whitehall, S.W.1.

September 14th, 1943.

DEAR MADAM,—

Sir James Grigg asks me to thank you warmly for your letter of September 13th, enclosing a resolution from the Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses.

He will pass on your message of thanks to those who deserve your gratitude and admiration.

Yours truly,

GRIGG (Private Secretary).

From the Secretary of State for the Air Council:—

Air Ministry, Whitehall, S.W.1.

September 16th, 1943.

DEAR MADAM,—

I am writing on behalf of the Secretary of State to thank you for the Resolution of the Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses, which you forwarded to him. He asks me to add that this message is deeply appreciated.

Yours truly,

R. FULFORD (Private Secretary).

The resolutions of appreciation and gratitude to the Nursing Services of the Navy, Army, and Air Force, as reported, sent to the Matrons-in-Chief of the three Nursing Services, received the following acknowledgments:—

From Miss D. W. BEALE, Matron-in-Chief Q.A.R.N.N.S.:—

The expressions contained in the resolution are much appreciated, and the document has been forwarded to the Medical Director-General of the Navy, from whom acknowledgment will be received.

Medical Department of the Navy.

September 21st, 1943.

MADAM,—

The Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.R.N.N.S., has forwarded your letter of September 15th, and I should be glad if you would inform your Fellows and Members how gratified I am that they have shown their appreciation of the services of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

S. F. DUDLEY,

Medical Director-General.

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