

NURSING ECHOES.

In the past, Christmas has been a very encouraging time in the JOURNAL Office, so many appreciative letters and good wishes from all over the world. Alas! between us and many dear friends, under present postal restrictions only silence remains, but as we have great faith in telepathy many sympathetic thoughts float out into space and are gathered together afar. Where possible, the written word has gone forth.

Thus from the office of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, the President has sent its heartfelt good wishes to the President of the International Council of Nurses, to the Presidents of the Canadian Nurses' Association, of the South African Trained Nurses' Association, the New Zealand Registered Nurses' Association, the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, the American Nurses' Association, with a copy of the newly-published beautifully-illustrated poem, "The White Cliffs," by Alice Duer Miller—which has been described as "the most moving piece of writing that has so far come out of the war," to be placed in the libraries of these national organisations of nurses.

To the President of the Trained Nurses' Association of India greetings have been sent enclosing a copy of "Queen Mary's Book for India," in aid of the Indian Comforts Fund, in which Queen Mary sends the following message to the mothers of India:—

"I send this message to the mothers of India's fighting men.

"You are constantly in my thoughts and I know that many of you are anxious, and some are sorrowful, but all are proud of your brave sons.

"My own dear sons have served in the Navy, Army, and Air Force, and I share your anxieties, your sorrows, and your pride. I do not forget the patient fortitude of your daughters-in-law and I trust that your gentle care sustains them in this time of trial.

"I pray God may bless all gallant Indian soldiers, sailors and airmen, and that in the hour of victory they may return with great honour to their homes and make your hearts glad again."

The National Salaries Committee in its second report, recently issued to the Minister of Health, Mr. H. U. Willink, and presented to Parliament as a Command Paper, recommends national scales of salaries and emoluments to apply to Male Nurses, Public Health Nurses, District Nurses and State Registered Nurses in Day and Residential Nurseries.

These national scales will affect about 17,000 nurses in England and Wales, and when in full operation will mean increases of salary totalling well over £500,000 and £2,000,000 a year given to female hospital nurses under the first report of the Rushcliffe Nurses Committee, and increases totalling over £250,000 for midwives (other than those covered by the present report).

The Minister of Health approves the Committee's recommendations and is asking all employing authorities to put them into effect retrospectively from April 1st last.

With such generous emoluments there is little doubt that after the strain of war nursing there will be an ample supply of nurses and midwives to meet the public requirements without de-grading by Assistant Nurses.

The financial remuneration of Matrons and Sister

Tutors is on a very generous scale, and for such appointments in future both classes will, no doubt, be called upon to present diplomas proving their professional efficiency for their special responsibilities. The definition of the theoretical and practical course for a Matron's Diploma has long been overdue. Let us hope it will be based on character.

Some nurses, who have taken their training with a view to Medical Missionary work abroad, are under the impression that the final stage of their preparation—the missionary training college—must be postponed until after the war, owing to National Service Regulations.

This is, in fact, not the case, as the Ministry of Labour has given permission for the recruitment of 200 women missionary candidates during the present year for training for overseas work. About 75 of these may be medical—*i.e.*, doctors or nurses.

This 200 is in addition to any who were missionary candidates prior to Registration and who may have been exempted under previous regulations.

Applications for release should be made through the missionary society under which the nurse is hoping to work.

A new departure in fixing the cost of medical and nursing care in illness for those of limited means is being instituted at the London Hospital on December 9.

A contributory bed scheme will come into operation in addition to the pay bed system of private wards, already in existence.

Patients who can benefit from the contributory bed scheme must be those whose incomes do not exceed the following scale:—

Married with dependants £750 a year.

Married without dependants £600 a year.

Single with dependants £600 a year.

Single without dependants £400 a year.

These patients will pay six guineas a week.

Excellent returns for this year from the Gardens Scheme of the Scottish branch of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing was reported by the Duchess of Roxburghe, chairman of the Gardens Scheme Committee, at a meeting of the Committee held in Edinburgh recently.

She reported that the year's results of £11,815 12s. were £5,400 higher than last year's returns, and over £5,000 higher than the record figure at £6,774 set up in 1939.

In view of the greatly increased cost of nursing services, this rise in the Gardens Scheme's total was a most welcome addition to the funds in support of district nursing. The sum of £75,903 had been raised in the 13 years of the Scheme's existence.

The fact that many District Nursing Associations in Scotland had raised their membership subscriptions, in some cases to 3d. a week, to meet the increase in the salaries of district nurses, was revealed at the quarterly meeting of the Scottish Council of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing.

The hope was expressed that the efforts of the local committees would meet with a ready response from the community to ensure a continuance of an efficient domiciliary nursing service.

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