

reaches her 100th birthday in August of this year, was made by Sir Alexander Taylor, chairman of the "Royal," when he recently addressed a meeting in the Scottish Nurses' Club.

Mrs. Strong, who was given an O.B.E. in 1939, was a pupil of Florence Nightingale at her School of Nursing in St. Thomas's Hospital, and was twice Matron of the "Royal"—from 1879 until 1885, and from 1891 until 1907. It was in 1893 that Mrs. Strong started her preliminary training school at the hospital for student nurses. The school was the first in the world, and her work had a great effect everywhere, as letters from many parts of the world later told her how her good work was being carried on by her pupils and their followers.

The differences in rates of pay for nurses prescribed in the Taylor Committee report for Scotland, and the Rushcliffe Committee report for England, are causing hospital authorities in Scotland, considerable concern. While the scales for the lower grades are very much alike in the two reports, the Rushcliffe report recommends better scale for the nurses of longer experience and carrying more responsibility than the Scottish report, and it is feared that this disparity will prejudice Scotland by encouraging a drift south of the most highly trained nurses.

Discussing this question when accepting this week the Taylor Committee report for application to the staff of the municipal hospitals, the Conditions of Services Committee of Glasgow Corporation expressed the opinion that it was anomalous that nurses should be better paid in England than in Scotland, and a sub-committee was set up to press for equal treatment.

Higher salaries for nurses at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary were approved at the first meeting of the newly-elected board of directors, which had under consideration the proposals in the interim report of the Scottish Nurses' Salaries Committee. A letter from the Scottish Secretary commended the committee's proposals and stated that, pending the settlement of the post-war hospital arrangements, the Government would help the hospitals to give effect to the Committee's proposals by a grant equal to half of the additional expenditure involved in the new salary scales.

ARMY MATRON SHOPS BY BOMBER.

Miss Anne McGeary, of Glasgow, matron of a military hospital in a remote part of Assam, does her shopping by bomber.

She and her staff of British Sisters recently arrived at their new station. Naturally they wanted to make things more like home. They are many hundreds of miles away from the nearest big town; but an R.A.F. pilot solved the problem. He gave the Matron a lift in a bomber, and after an "orgy" of shopping, she made her return flight, bringing with her parcels of curtains, gaily coloured chintzes, rugs, knitting wool, and other materials.

The danger of interception by Japanese aircraft did not worry Miss McGeary. In 1939 she was one of the first to arrive in France. In 1940 she was among the last to leave. She nursed in Malta before reaching Assam.

THE WAR.

THE QUEEN ENCOURAGES THE WOMEN OF THE EMPIRE

On Sunday evening, April 11th, Her Majesty the Queen, in a broadcast talk to the women of the Empire, said that they had earned the gratitude and admiration of all mankind by their heroism and astonishing work in helping to win the war.

Her Majesty emphasised the importance of their task as home-makers and declared her conviction that on the strength of the people's spiritual life the right rebuilding of the national life depends. The Queen said:—

"I would like first of all to try to tell you just why I am speaking to you to-night—to you, my fellow-countrywomen, all over the world. It is not because any special occasion calls for it; it is not because I have any special message to give you. It is because there is something that, deep in my heart, I know ought to be told to you, and probably I am the best person to do it. . . . Something makes me feel that I would like to meet you this Sunday night. For you, though you may not realise it, have done work as great as any book that ever was written; you, too, in these years of tragedy and glory, of crushing sorrow and splendid achievement, have earned the gratitude and admiration of mankind; and I am sure that every man who is doing his man's share in the grim task of winning this war would agree that it is high time that someone told you so. . . . Perhaps, constantly travelling, as the King and I do, through the length and breadth of these islands, I am fortunate in being able to see a clear picture of the astonishing work that women are doing everywhere, and of the quiet heroism with which, day in day out, they are doing it. This picture, I know, is being reproduced in many similar aspects all over the Empire, from the largest self-governing Dominion to the smallest island owing allegiance to the Crown. We are, indeed, very proud of you. . . . Work is a word that covers a very wide field. It is hard to define in a single phrase; but if you take it as doing something useful that helps others, then you will see that *your* work, whatever it may be, is just as valuable, just as much "war work" as that which is done by the bravest soldier, sailor or airman who actually meets the enemy in battle." The Queen, whose voice is charming, said many more lovely things to us, ending with the following gracious words: "The King and I are grateful to think that we and our family are remembered in your prayers. We need them and try to live up to them. We also pray that God will bless and guide our people in this country and our great family throughout the Empire, and will lead us forward, united and strong, into the paths of victory and peace."

If only we could secure these gracious words in leaflet form, how greatly they would be valued.

Miss Elizabeth Smellie, C.B.E., R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief in Canada, of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps Nursing Service, is at present in England. She has, of course, been warmly welcomed by her Canadian colleagues, who entertained her at a reception at the May Fair Hotel on April 8th, and on April 17th she is to be the guest of the Matrons-in-Chief Q.A.R.N.N.S., and Q.A.I.M.N.S. and P.M.R.A.F.N.S. at a reception and tea at the United Nursing Services' Club, 34, Cavendish Square, W.1, which will, we have no doubt, be a most inspiring occasion. As we all know, Miss Smellie has had the honour to organise and supervise the Canadian Women's Army Corps, and most cordial appreciation of her services was expressed to her by Colonel the Hon. P. L. Ralston.

Miss Smellie has followed in the footsteps of the late Miss Agnes Snively as the most prominent nursing organiser in the great Dominion.

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