

medical service, with a vista of great opportunity to further the nation's health and welfare, fired the imagination. But it was all the more important that the foundations of such a service should be built on the rock of agreement and not on the sands of dissension.

He confessed his discouragement and dismay when he found that the Ministry of Health was giving way to the hustle of political expediency and was trying to build a structure in a few weeks' time which was beyond the wit of man to do. It would be nothing but a jerry-built structure, and anyone trying to build it would arouse a degree of antagonism and distrust which would bring any scheme to the ground. To endeavour to enclose all doctors within a ringed fence now was sheer madness. The medical profession would not consent to be pawns on the local government chessboard; they would not consent to have a highly-skilled profession governed by laymen.

Lord Moran, Lord Geddes and the Earl of Huntingdon took part in the debate.

GOVERNMENT REPLY.

Lord Snell, Captain, Gentlemen-at-Arms, said "The principle of the motion, that any proposal should be carefully examined and that no hasty decision should be taken, was precisely the policy of the Government. The Government had made no final decisions about the suggestion that the medical profession might be turned into a State salaried service. There was no justification for the view that the Government were rushing heedless down steep and slippery places in their dealings with the medical profession, which was being consulted at every stage. A free choice of doctors was desirable wherever that was possible.

The Government had stated and now reaffirmed their decision that they had no intention of imposing on the medical profession and the existing health services hasty and ill-considered proposals."

Let us hope the medical profession will take note of the ruthless manner in which Mr. Ernest Brown has trampled upon the liberties, rights and privileges enjoyed by Registered Nurses in the Act of 1919, constituting himself an absolute Dictator in his "Nurses Act, 1943," even to seizing their Headquarters and claiming the use of their cash which they have contributed to organising their profession during the past 20 years. There is only one word which describes Mr. Brown's conduct in this particular, but "as the greater the truth the greater the libel" we refrain from its use for the moment. Let us hope Registered Nurses will claim justice in the near future.

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRON.

Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital, Church Street, Birmingham.—Miss C. M. McDonald, S.R.N., S.C.M., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Sheffield Royal Hospital, where she was later Night Superintendent and Theatre Sister, and at the Jessop Hospital for Women. Miss McDonald has also been Sister Tutor and Sister-in-Charge of X-Ray Department, Home Sister and Deputy Matron at the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

General Infirmary, Leeds.—Miss A. D. Lawrence, S.R.N., has been appointed Second Assistant Matron. She was trained at the Prince of Wales's General Hospital, London, N.15, where she has been Staff Nurse, Holiday Relief Sister, Ward Sister, and Sister-in-Charge of the Private Wing. Miss Lawrence has also been Night Sister at the Children's Heart Hospital, West Wickham, Kent, and Pupil and Staff Midwife at the Ilford Maternity Hospital.

NURSES' PRIZE GIVING AT THE ROYAL INFIRMARY OF EDINBURGH.

Although the Duke of Montrose, Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, could not pay his appointed visit to the Royal Infirmary as he had to address the Assembly, the Duchess of Montrose and members of her suite devoted a large part of the afternoon of Wednesday, May 19th, to the hospital.

Met at the main entrance by Mr. Little, Chairman of the Board of Managers, Lieut.-Colonel Stewart, the Superintendent, and Miss Smail, Lady Superintendent of Nurses, the party visited first a surgical, than a medical ward, and proceeded to the Simpson Memorial Maternity Pavilion where, after inspecting one of the wards, they went to the Lecture Theatre in which a large company of members of the nursing staff, officials of the hospital and friends awaited the Nurses' Prize Giving.

There was a spirit of expectancy which was not belied for the successful nurses filed by and curtsied in rapid succession; enthusiasm grew as the special awards were read out and culminated in the presentation of the "Affleck Medal for Distinction in Nursing," being given to Miss B. Moira Milligan. The "Annie Warren Gill Memorial Prize for the Theory and Practice of Dietetics" was divided between Miss D. Kyles (in absentia) and Mrs. Walkingshaw. The Duchess spoke very movingly about the vocation of nursing and showed how closely the profession was linked with the true spirit of Christianity. It remained for Lady Fraser, Convener of the Nursing Committee, to propose a very hearty vote of thanks to the Duchess, and after prolonged applause the party adjourned to tea in the Florence Nightingale Nurses' Home. There the beautiful recreation hall had been made to look so festive with flowers and good things that we felt as though we were celebrating, not only the Nurses' Prize Giving, but our great victory in North Africa as well.

PRIZE LIST, 1943.

- Miss J. Campbell (in absentia), 1st prize, Medical Nursing.
 Miss Marjory Grant, 2nd prize, Medical Nursing.
 Miss E. G. Mowat, 1st prize, Materia Medica; 1st prize, Bacteriology.
 Miss Z. Campbell, 2nd prize, Materia Medica.
 Miss B. M. Milligan, 1st prize, Gynaecology.
 Miss D. N. Merriman, 2nd prize, Gynaecology.
 Miss Margaret Hughes, 1st prize, Gynaecology.
 Miss D. Kyles, 2nd prize equal, Gynaecology.
 Miss M. E. Munro, 2nd prize equal, Gynaecology.
 Miss H. Campbell, prize, Theory of Dietetics.
 Miss E. M. G. Scott, 1st prize, Surgical Nursing and Instruments.
 Miss K. Heron, 2nd prize, Surgical Nursing and Instruments.
 Miss D. Shaw, 1st prize, Special Subjects.
 Miss M. L. Hamilton, 1st prize, Senior General Nursing.
 Miss D. Hawkins, 1st prize, Senior General Nursing.
 Miss R. M. Young, 1st prize, Senior General Nursing.
 Miss R. M. Young, 1st prize equal, Physiology.
 Miss M. O. Cunningham, 1st prize, Senior General Nursing.
 Miss McHendry, 1st prize, special group, Senior General Nursing.
 Miss G. H. Rennie, 1st prize, Senior General Nursing.
 Miss A. H. Clark, 1st prize, Junior General Nursing.
 Miss B. M. Banister, 1st prize, Junior General Nursing.
 Miss B. M. Banister, 1st prize, Hygiene.
 Miss E. C. Mann, 1st prize, Junior General Nursing.
 Miss B. Hall, 1st prize, Junior General Nursing.
 Miss B. Hall, 1st prize, Hygiene.
 Miss J. M. Williams, 1st prize equal, Physiology.
 Miss Buglass, 1st prize, Physiology.
 Miss G. M. Maw, 1st prize, Physiology.
 Miss M. G. Ferguson, 1st prize, Hygiene.

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