

## READY FOR NEW TASKS.

The *Canadian Nurse* for April, 1943, announces the resignation by Miss Grace M. Fairley, of the very important office of Superintendent of Nurses and Director of the School for Nurses of the Vancouver General Hospital. Under the heading "Ready for New Tasks," the following appreciation of her invaluable work for nursing in Canada is recorded:

"Very much to the regret of the Board of Directors of the Vancouver General Hospital, Grace Mitchell Fairley has asked to be released from her duties as Superintendent of Nurses and Director of the School for Nurses. For the past 14 years Miss Fairley has been responsible for directing the nursing service of a hospital with over a thousand beds and has guided the destinies of one of the largest schools of nursing in Canada. Even in normal times, responsibilities such as these are a heavy load to carry; complicated by the exigencies of war, they might easily have overwhelmed a less competent and resourceful leader.

In paying tribute to Miss Fairley's achievement Dr. A. K. Haywood, general superintendent of the Vancouver General Hospital, writes as follows:

"I first met Miss Fairley in Montreal when she was Superintendent of Nurses at the Alexandra Hospital. We worked together during the influenza epidemic of 1918, and it was then that I first discovered her sterling character and ability. Time marched on and so did Miss Fairley—Hamilton, London—and then in 1929 she came to the Vancouver General Hospital. It was my good fortune to join forces with her in 1930, and to have her assistance and leadership in developing what everybody in the nursing world, in Canada at least, would admit is an outstanding school for nurses. This has been no small task, especially in a semi-open hospital, but Miss Fairley has risen to the occasion.

"During her term of office she has witnessed rapid educational changes in the nursing world and greatly increased demands by the public in relation to nursing services. In dealing with both these problems, her leadership and advice has been widely sought. Not the least of her accomplishments has been to convince the board of directors that, in a good school of nursing, there should be a generous ratio of graduates to students. Her efforts have been crowned with success and whereas she had 50 graduates when she took over her duties here, to-day she has 300. To accomplish this she had at times to almost defy the board of directors, but her powers of conviction were such that she finally won. Her latest success was to convince the powers that be of the right of the nurse to be treated at least as humanely as those in the labour world and, within the last

year, the eight-hour day for nurses has become an established fact.

"One hates to say goodbye, but this is only *au revoir*. Miss Fairley will be remembered by her staff and students as a just judge who always tempered her justice with mercy. The Hospital will never forget what she has meant to all with whom she came in contact.

"In a recent letter to a friend, Miss Fairley said 'I am sorry to give up my work during the war but I feel keenly that the women who will be in office during the reconstruction period should be preparing themselves now.' Even though Miss Fairley is relinquishing her arduous task at the Vancouver General Hospital, there can be no question of her going out of office. She is so closely linked with the Canadian Nurses' Association and with the International Council of Nurses that she

will not have a chance to escape from the new demands that will be made on her in connection with post-war reconstruction in Canada and abroad. Those who know her best are quite sure that before long she will be light-heartedly commuting by airplane between Vancouver and points east—possibly even as far as her beloved Scotland. And so we wish her exciting voyages and happy landings."

Let us hope Miss Fairley's many friends in Great Britain will soon have the pleasure of welcoming her "on this side." She is held in so much affection and esteem by her colleagues at home, that we shall all expect remembrance.



MISS GRACE M. FAIRLEY, R.N., F.B.C.N.

The *Canadian Nurse* announces the appointment of Miss Elinor Mathilde Palliser as Superintendent of Nurses of the Vancouver General Hospital, in succession to Miss Grace Fairley. Miss Palliser

was born in Lachute, Quebec, and began her nursing career in Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, and has an extensive professional experience which includes private nursing, teaching, and administration. She has studied at McGill University, Montreal, where she received the Certificate in Administration in Hospitals and Schools of Nursing. We have been in touch with Vancouver for so many years that we offer warm congratulations to Miss Elinor M. Palliser upon her appointment to this leading Canadian School of Nursing, and shall hope in the time to come after the war that British delegates may come into personal relations with her through the International Council of Nurses, when the long-deferred Congress may at last assemble in the United States of America. What an inspiring assembly that will be!

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