

of the Royal Merchant Navy School, Bear Wood Wokingham, Berkshire, which cares for the orphans of Merchant Navy officers and men, £150,000 is required. In addition, it is hoped to make a grant to the school endowment fund.

The Seafarers' Education Service has asked the Merchant Navy Comforts Service to provide £100,000 for extensions that are urgently needed in its work.

We have great sympathy with all these good works. Let us do all we can to help.

We have been greatly interested and lost in admiration of the type of woman selected in the great Dominions for honourable status and post of authority whose portraits are reproduced in the official nursing Press. The portrait in the *New Zealand Nursing Journal* of Sister Joyce T. Sexton, recently awarded the A.R.R.C. in Birthday Honours, is typical of what a nurse should be, and we think our readers will agree with us that so long as such women help to compose the Nursing Profession, we may continue to hope that its future is secure.

The name of Mary Agnes Snively, pioneer of international nursing in Canada, is, of course, held in great esteem, and her memory is kept green by a memorial.

At a recent general meeting it was agreed that the form that this memorial should take is to be revised. It is understood that Miss Snively's memory will now be perpetuated by a Special Lecture to be given at the time of each general meeting. Recommendations regarding this are to be submitted by a committee at a later date.

We are informed from headquarters Canadian Nurses' Association that Miss Lindeburgh, the President of the Association, has retired, and that Miss Fanny Munroe, Superintendent of Nurses, Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, was elected President at the General Meeting, held recently at Winnipeg. Miss Munroe is widely known throughout Canada—she is a graduate of the School of Nursing of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, 1914, where she stayed until she joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps in 1917, since which time she has had varied nursing experience. In 1938 she was welcomed back to Montreal, when she assumed the principalship of the School of Nursing at the Royal Victoria Hospital. In character she is an extremely versatile personality, and the Canadian Nurses' Association welcomes its new pilot.

The custom in the old country of long-term officials finds no favour in go-ahead Dominions, where, apparently, the supply of able progressive women appears inexhaustible.

"Honours for Russian Mothers" are announced from Moscow, as reported in *The Times* :—

"The Soviet Government recently introduced new scales of family allowances which will provide a lump sum and monthly grants to all mothers of families of four children and upwards. Family allowances were previously granted only after the birth of the seventh child.

"The new scheme, which applies to unmarried mothers as well—an unmarried mother receives aid for the education and rearing of her children from the first child—is accompanied by measures which increase the holidays prospective mothers can claim, and holidays after the birth of the child. Food allowances to prospective mothers are also increased.

"Mothers of five or more children now qualify for medals. For rearing families of five and six the Motherhood Medal is awarded; mothers of seven, eight and nine children will receive the Order of Glory, while mothers of 10 or more children will, in future, be known as 'Mother Heroines.'

"Important changes in divorce procedure are announced. In future, divorce will only be obtainable after a decision of the Courts, and the old method of divorce by declaration and registration at a marriage bureau will be superseded." We are all for 'Mother Heroines' but advise mercy.



SISTER JOYCE T. SEXTON.  
Awarded the A.R.R.C. in Birthday Honours.

A Warning to Nurses. A body of public men, including a number of peers and Members of Parliament has formed a "Fighting Fund for Freedom," the purpose of which is to demand the minimum of State control and a maximum of individual freedom, and to ensure that constitutional principles shall be actively pursued as soon as the war is over.

In a letter announcing the fund, the sponsors say that the trend of legislation for the period after the war is in the direction of more State control. Bill after Bill involves compulsion and loss of personal freedom. "Something must be done," they declare, "to arrest the race down the road to the totalitarian State. The farther we go down that road, the harder it will be to turn back."

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