

Damage to House and Repairs.

Owing to extensive damage in the district from enemy action created by the flying bombs, the building licence for repairs at No. 19, Queen's Gate has been revoked by the Minister of Works; and as the situation is somewhat eased, application has been made to the Minister to allow the work to proceed. Payment has been asked for on account by the builders, and this is receiving attention.

It is now six months since the serious devastation to the College premises, and it is feared many more will elapse before order is restored, but the office work continues in an orderly manner.

Election of Fellows and Members.

Applications for membership were received, considered, and approved.

The Annual Meeting.

It was agreed the Annual Meeting should be held on Thursday, November 23rd, at 2.30 p.m.

The Meeting then terminated.

Tea was served in the Secretary's Office, which is in full working order, the staff living in hopes of future facilities.

AFTER MANY DAYS.

Old people are notoriously intolerant of change, and when we learned that the Grey and Scarlet uniform of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service was to be superseded by khaki, we regretted its disappearance, so sincerely was it admired in connection with the devoted service of generations of our military nurses.

Recently we have had the honour and pleasure of residing in a Nurses' Club, to which Principal Matrons and Sisters of this military service are warmly welcomed, and as one by one they appear in officer's khaki uniform, so neat and trim, with sparkling buttons, and ribbons commemorating devoted service to our country, and denoting the approval of service by His Majesty the King, we realise that "grey and scarlet" has been superseded by the demands of military rank, a demand made by us to the chief medical officer at the War Office in the year 1887; a suggestion pigeonholed for upwards of half a century!

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND THE ASSISTANT NURSE.

The Minister of Health has directed that Assistant Nurses working as such in the Civil Nursing Reserve must enrol on the Assistant Nurses Roll or resign. This decision is apparently inevitable—as for the future the title of Assistant Nurse is protected by Act of Parliament, and naturally cannot be assumed in a Government Service. A large number of women who do not wish to pledge themselves will therefore cease to use the name which they have assumed for their own interest.

GENERAL SECRETARY, SOCIETY OF REGISTERED MALE NURSES.

Mr. H. Gaskell, S.R.N., has been appointed General Secretary of the Society of Registered Male Nurses.

Mr. Gaskell is a general trained State-registered male nurse, and received his training at Hackney Hospital, London, E.9.

Later, he obtained the Nurse Tutor's Certificate at Battersea Polytechnic and has been engaged in whole-time teaching for the past two years and ten months at both Hackney Hospital and St. Charles's Hospital, Ladbroke Grove.

As State Registered Male Nurses are now being included by the G.N.C. and other organisations in progressive educational movements, Mr. H. Gaskell has a busy time in prospect. We wish him success.

THE WAR.**"THE SECOND BATTLE OF LONDON."**

Nothing enraged London residents more than the attitude of the inspired Press "when bombs showered down upon them" than the casual allusion to "Southern England and the London area"—when the metropolis of the Empire had been placed in the front rank of battle with little organised defence, an attitude presumably inspired by those responsible for the tragedy. We were pleased to note, therefore, though late in the day, that Mr. Willink, Minister of Health, made the *amende honorable* for the Minister of Home Security when addressing the Rotary Club in London on September 20th.

As reported in *The Times* :—

London's Ordeal.

"Mr. Willink, Minister of Health, said no one could pay adequate tribute to what London had done during the second battle of London. There was no doubt that London had won one of the great battles of the war. But the battle, though won, was not yet over.

"He and other members of the Government had repeatedly advised evacuees to stay away until they could be told that the time was right for their return. Three weeks ago he remarked that 'cornered beasts were vicious.' The Nazis were cornered, and we could not depend upon them not showing their vice in some new way.

"The number of evacuees returning, however, was small in proportion to the 818,000 who left London during the battle. Most parents were showing good sense in keeping their children away. It would be of great assistance if firms would keep their evacuated staffs away from London for the present, especially in view of the rehousing shortage that would be experienced this winter.

462,000 SHELTERERS.

"The battle of London started on June 15th, and the first 10 weeks, ending on August 31st, were the period of greatest intensity. The first fortnight was perhaps the time of greatest strain. At the end of June there were 81,000 people sheltering in the Tube stations, but this was an improvement compared with the 123,000 in September, 1940. In public shelters of all kinds there were 462,000, compared with 470,000 in November, 1940.

"The intensity of the attack at the end of June was shown by the fact that nearly half of the 400,000 houses damaged in the first two weeks had not received even a 'field dressing.' Early in June London began to get into its stride, and the evacuation machinery was running smoothly. Apart from those who went at their own expense, there went out under Government plans in parties or with vouchers and billeting arrangements no fewer than 818,000 people—228,000 mothers and expectant mothers, 537,000 children, and 53,000 old, invalid, and blind. The machinery worked smoothly considering the enormous size of the operation.

"Just on 100 London hospitals received damage, and the growing loss of beds and the possibility of an increasing attack led to the evacuation of over 14,000 patients to the North and West of England, Scotland, and Wales. The number of flying bomb casualties admitted to London hospitals was 14,558. The work in the hospitals right from the start was magnificent.

QUICK REPAIR WORK.

"Referring to repairs to hospital buildings, Mr. Willink mentioned that St. George's Hospital was damaged at 3.30 a.m., and by 4.30 a.m. the Ministry of Works' special repair squad was replacing windows. To-day, out of the 14,558 patients taken into the hospitals, only 1,347 still remained.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)