

doubt, influenced Miss Hardy in accepting the post at Belfast to which she has been appointed.

Anyway she is a progressive and energetic woman, with plenty of moral courage, and all her friends will wish her happiness and success in her new sphere of work and hope she may visit them from time to time. Miss Hardy's journalistic *flair* is a second string to her bow, which may in the future be more actively used for the benefit of her profession and the public.

We know of no more beneficent movement in the Nursing World than the organisation of nurses in hospital school groups or Leagues (the title which is most popular), and we read with sincere pleasure the school journals kindly sent to us from some of the leading organisations. We have a special sympathy with this movement, as it is now half a century past that upon our return from the World's Fair held in Chicago in 1893 to commemorate the Great Discoverer, Christopher Columbus, we reported to the late Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, what we had learned in the United States concerning what were termed "Nurses' Alumnae Associations," which promoted the principle of group organisation of nurses in their various training schools. But it was not until some years later, in 1899, that the first League materialised in England, when it was founded by Miss Isla Stewart, and has been a most beneficent example to groups of nurses trained in other leading hospitals.

We have before us copies of the *League News*, the official organ of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; the *Review*, No. XII, December, 1943, the organ of the London Hospital League of Nurses; and the *Nightingale Fellowship Journal*, St. Thomas's Hospital. One and all are admirably produced and edited, and cannot fail to promote the *esprit de corps* of these historic hospitals.

The keynote of the various groups of nurses at the present time is, of course, service in this devastating war, and little space is allotted to professional controversy which should not have arisen at this hour.

Both "London" and St. Thomas's record, with sincere regret, the loss of Chairman and Treasurer; the former the late the Hon. Sir William H. Goschen, K.B.E., by death, the latter by resignation of the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, G.B.E., C.B., who was Treasurer of St. Thomas's Hospital from 1917 to 1943 and to whom the nursing staff presented the Nightingale Badge "with affection and gratitude" upon his retirement, and who, in thanking them, wrote through the Matron: "No Treasurer or head of a hospital has ever had more loyal service and support than I have received from you and the nurses. . . . I can only say once more that I cannot find words in which adequately to thank you and them."

The opportunity is available in the Address to members delivered by the Presidents at the Annual Meetings of these organisations to review professional affairs. It is to be regretted that they have not availed themselves of this duty. In neither of these three publications is the Nurses Act, 1943, explained in detail, nor

the facts emphasised—(1) that the headquarters erected by Registered Nurses have been commandeered without their consent for the organisation of semi-trained nurses, and (2) that Registered Nurses under Rule 19 are responsible for financing the Assistant Nurses' Roll should a deficit occur—an amazing injustice of which the Nursing Profession is being kept in ignorance. As a member of the Bart's League, it would appear that the new Minister of Health should be invited to rectify these unjust provisions in the Nurses Act, 1943.

We note all the Leagues are generously supported by members; have a surplus income, and use their finances for the general well-being of members.

THE QUEEN'S NURSES.

Her Majesty Queen Mary has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of 87 nurses to be "Queen's Nurses," 68 in England; 16 in Scotland, and 3 in Northern Ireland. The work of these nurses is held in universal esteem by those they attend.

SERVICES TO HUMANITY.

When the history of the uprising of the Nursing Profession comes to be written, the two members of the medical profession to whom the nurses owe undying gratitude are Bedford Fenwick, M.D. in Great Britain, whose work and generosity largely procured the Royal Charter for the Royal British Nurses' Association, in 1893, and who also secured publicity for the demand for State Registration of Nurses through this Journal, for a quarter of a century, and

Dr. John Tremble, Founder of the South African Nurses' Association, who passed away at East London on the 10th of November last, and to whom an eloquent tribute is paid for his years of devotion to the nurses' cause, in the *South African Nursing Journal* for December, 1943, which expresses the esteem and affection in which he was held by our colleagues in South Africa.

These two men had much in common and some day we hope their services to humanity will receive recognition.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

A GENEROUS GIFT.

The Royal British Nurses' Association has received from two nurses in South Africa (Mrs. Boast and Mrs. Keeler) the sum of £1,000 to be used for Nurses invalided out of war service or suffering from war conditions. The donors requested that the money be put in the Helena Benevolent Fund, and in accordance with their wish this has been done. A separate account is being kept in the fund for transactions arising on this gift. Much to be appreciated is the kindly thought that prompted these two members of our profession to act so generously towards their colleagues in the Homeland.

Those nurses eligible for help from this Fund should apply to the Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, London. S.W.7.

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