

NURSING ECHOES.

Her Majesty the Queen has graciously sent a donation of £100 to Lord Davies, Chairman of the Council established to promote the Princess Tsahai Memorial Hospital now being erected in Addis Ababa in memory of the young Ethiopian Princess.

It will be recalled that the Princess Tsahai gave the five years of her exile to devoted service in British hospitals, and that she died shortly after her country was liberated by the aid of Britain and the Allies, and within a year of her return home whilst actively engaged in organising the health services of her country.

On more than one occasion it has been stated in print that the founding of the International Council of Nurses was initiated by the International Council of Women. This is an error. We propose, therefore, in our next issue to prove that the I.C.W. took no part whatever in evolving or founding the I.C.N. Indeed, the inspiration and organisation of the Nurses' International was entirely professional, its initiators realising that lay interference and control would inevitably cramp its professional development.

The Annual Meeting of the Nurses Christian Movement will be held on Wednesday, 17th May, 1944, in the Swinston Hall, Broadway, Westminster (opposite St. James's Park Station).

Meetings will be at 3 p.m. and at 7 p.m. Business will be transacted in the afternoon, when speakers will include Miss Constance Fairhall of Papua, and Dr. T. F. Davey of Nigeria.

In the evening, Miss H. Sutherland of India, and the Rev. G. A. Lardi, B.A., late of Italy, will be the principal speakers.

These meetings are usually very inspiring and we hope the collections will be generously supported. The General Secretary, Miss L. Topping, S.R.N., may be addressed at 3, Cromwell Place, South Kensington, S.W.7.

Nearly 22,500 members of the Civil Nursing Reserve of all grades have qualified for the red stripes or red stars awarded for each year of satisfactory whole-time service—or its equivalent part-time—in hospitals, first aid posts and other nursing services.

Included in this total are nearly 11,000 who have also earned second year awards and nearly 4,000 holding three year awards.

Blue stripes or blue stars for special service in nursing tuberculous or fever patients have also been awarded to over 500 Civil Nursing Reserve members.

The need to educate the public to the value of nursing services was stressed by Dr. MacColl Smith, of the Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow, speaking recently at the annual meeting of the Nurses Memorial, Dumbreck. Why was it that nurses were paid less than school teachers? The public were not sufficiently informed about nursing affairs he thought. While nurses had been conscripted and plans made to improve the conditions of service, he thought too much attention had been given to the conditions of nurses and training and not enough about the conditions of the trained nurse, which were much more important.

Hazelwood provides accommodation for 30 retired nurses, and at the present stage there is a waiting list

of 20. Expenditure exceeded income again last year, as in the previous eight years.

Glasgow had an opportunity of showing its appreciation of the work of the Glasgow District Nursing Association when the Association held its annual flag day on April 15th. Last year's flag day realised £950, and the committee hope this year to reach £1,000.

Over 12,600 patients were attended in their own homes by the Queen's Nurses last year. The nurses pay on an average 10,000 visits per month, all necessitous poor patients being nursed free of charge. The Taylor Report recommendations for increased salaries for Queen's Nurses which have been put into immediate effect in Glasgow, it is stated, have placed a heavy burden on the Association's resources, which can be met only by the help of a generous public.

Another 500 girls between the ages of 15 and 17 are needed to help care for the little children of mothers who are employed in the factories or on other forms of national service. Over 1,000 of these nursery students are already training.

There are 1,300 war-time day nurseries open and another 300 to 400 are being prepared. Each nursery is in charge of a Matron who is a State-Registered hospital nurse, with trained nursery nurses to assist her, but young girls are needed for training to complete the staff—they will learn to wash, dress, feed and play with the babies and toddlers.

These students are given an allowance during training; also overalls and meals while on duty. After training, they can sit for their nursery nurses' diploma, which will be of value to them later.

Anticipating, as we all do, a serious increase in casualties as soon as ground fighting in Europe is pushed forward, it is a relief to know that reports have suggested that the death rate for wounded casualties in the Army is now much lower than in the last war. A new analysis published in a recent issue of the *Lancet* for 28,993 wounds treated in the general hospitals of the Middle East force for the year ended March 31st, 1943, strikingly confirms this, for the death rate was only 2.1 per cent., as compared with rates in the Great War between approximately 6 per cent. and 10 per cent., according to the date and place.

The reasons for this remarkable decrease are discussed. Mortality rates at forward units are about the same, but on the other hand there is a much better organisation for the collection and disposal of the wounded. An extensive blood transfusion service has enabled a high standard of resuscitation to be reached. Mobile field surgical units in advanced areas treated wounds early and air evacuation was used for long distances. Modern methods of treatment, including chemotherapy, also played a notable part in producing the lower death rate.

Surgical and nursing skill ever on the upgrade in the Army Medical Service is primarily responsible for saving life and mitigating physical disability in Service ranks.

The President of the Board of Trade stated recently in a written answer to a Parliamentary question that he had now arranged for hospital nurses to receive each year certificates entitling them to buy nine coupons' worth of stockings without giving up their own coupons.

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