

NURSING ECHOES.

On Tuesday morning, June 6th, the long expected invasion of Europe began by Allied Forces—Navy, Army, Air Force—and the devotion and admiration of the British Nation went with them. Nearly 11,000 first-line aircraft are available for the battle and upwards of 4,000 ships, together with other craft.

In the evening of that fateful day His Majesty the King, in a broadcast message, expressed the hope that throughout the present crisis of the liberation of Europe there may be offered up earnest, continuous and wide-spread prayer.

Her Majesty Queen Mary has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of 89 nurses to be Queen's Nurses: 72 in England, two in Wales, 14 in Scotland, and one in Northern Ireland.

A very encouraging report was given at the Nurses' Christian Movement annual meetings held recently in the Livingstone Hall. The General Secretary, Miss Topping, in presenting the report, said that the past year had been one of the best: 1,168 new members had joined, averaging over three a day. She believed a revival of religion had started in the hospitals throughout the country. Again and again the secretaries found themselves entering prepared situations where nurses had been praying and were expectant and ready to receive what had been offered. Miss Topping knew of nothing better than to offer Christ to nurses.

At the afternoon meeting, Mr. McAdam Eccles, M.S., F.R.C.S., was in the chair. Nurse Key, of Bedford County Hospital, spoke of the joy she had found in the fellowship of N.C.M.; Miss Constance Fairhall told of her work in Papua and the fight against tuberculosis and leprosy; and Dr. T. F. Davey gave an illuminating address on the leper situation in Nigeria, where in one province with a population of 2,000,000 there are 75,000 lepers.

Miss Cochrane, R.R.C., ex-Matron of Charing Cross Hospital, took the chair at the evening meeting. Three nurses who have recently been accepted by their Missionary Societies spoke of their call to the mission field, and then the Rev. G. A. Lardi, B.A., told a thrilling story of how Christ had met him, called him and used him in missionary work in Italy.

The devotions were led in the afternoon by the Chaplain of Guy's Hospital, and in the evening by the Chaplain of the Royal Free Hospital.

Further details of this work may be obtained from Miss Topping, 3, Cromwell Place, South Kensington.

On 31st January, 1944, the Minister of Labour and National Service issued a preliminary announcement that in order to relieve the acute shortage of personnel, particularly of trained nurses, in certain special fields of nursing employment, he had decided, on the advice of the National Advisory Council for the Recruitment and Distribution of Nurses and Midwives, to require newly qualified State Registered nurses to take further training or employment in one of the fields of special shortages for a period of one year.

This ill-advised Order reflected disastrously on the Nursing Schools, which had trained them, depriving the hospitals to which they were attached of the necessary trained staff.

It is satisfactory to learn that the Minister has given further consideration to the detailed application of the general decision, and has decided that periods of deferment granted to nurses to remain with their training hospitals shall be allowed to count towards the year's special service, provided that periods of deferment will not have the effect of leaving a nurse in her training hospital for more than six months after State registration or for more than four years after entry to training (three years in the case of those already on a supplementary part of the State Register).

To place a highly-organised profession of women under the authority of a Labour Minister—who has no personal experience whatever of their education, work, or status—is an absurdity, which could only have arisen in this war with autocratic Ministers in power.

The intelligentsia of the Nursing Profession are still smarting under the Nurses Act, 1943, backed by Mr. Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour, de-grading the status of the Registered Nurse and utilising her money for so doing.

Miss Mildred F. Hughes, Lady Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Leicester, has been elected President of the Royal College of Nursing, and we presume, therefore, that she is in favour of the de-grading policy of nursing standards supported by the College in helping to promote the Roll of unqualified Assistant Nurses through the Nurses Act, 1943.

No county hospital or nursing school stood higher in the past than that of the Royal Infirmary, Leicester, when superintended by that very remarkable woman, Miss Gertrude A. Rogers. This lady was one of the signatories to the Royal Charter granted by Queen Victoria to the British Nurses' Association in 1892, and was a leader in the uplift of nursing throughout her valuable life. Miss Rogers was with us heart and soul in the organisation of the International Council of Nurses, the meetings she attended to their enlightenment and success.

In loyalty to the memory of Miss Rogers, let us hope Miss Hughes will use her influence to help to eliminate Rule 19 from the Nurses Act, 1943, than nothing can be more intolerable and unjust.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE.

Overseas Employment. Staff Nurses are required for service in the Near East; they should be State Registered and preferably possess the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board. Age 25-35. Total emoluments, including salary, not less than £400 per annum with free furnished accommodation, free passages out and home, and kit allowance.

Applications in writing (no interviews), stating date of birth, full details of qualifications, and experience, including present employment; also Identity and National Service or other registration particulars, and quoting No. O.S.110, should be addressed to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, Appointments Department, Sardinia Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)