

## THE WAR.

### The Health of the Premier.

#### A MAN OF DESTINY.

If a Nurse may be permitted to express an opinion, it is this: That our Prime Minister shall not be permitted to risk the future salvation of the world by risking his own life. For four years he has inspired its peoples at home and abroad, and put them on the path to certain victory. We can never repay him for his valorous example, but we still need his personal influence. Let it now be exercised from London—still the hub of the universe. Roosevelt and Stalin are national inspirations, but Churchill is the Man of Destiny. It is good to know that during his recent illness overseas he has been in the care of great physicians, but that skilled nursing has also been available, supported by family affection.

#### Isn't it an Honour?

We had just written: "The day may come when the skilled services of nurses attending the King and Prime Minister under the direction of their medical attendants, will be made public," when the following paragraph appeared in the *Daily Sketch*.

#### AN "HONOUR INDEED."

A pitman's daughter, 29-year-old Sister Betty Clarke, has been nursing the Prime Minister back to health.

Her mother, who lives in a colliery cottage in Mill Road, Chopwell, Co. Durham, yesterday received this air mail letter from her daughter:

"Darling Mummy. Exciting news. I am nursing the Prime Minister. Isn't it an honour? Another Sister and myself were chosen.

"Last Sunday we were flown to a secret destination. Quite the sort of thing that happens in a story book. We had a wonderful air trip. "The Prime Minister is very much better, I am glad to say, and, although we share the nursing duties, there is not very much to do for him."

Sister Betty is a survivor of Dunkirk, and has been serving in the Middle East for 2½ years.

Miss Elizabeth Lavinia Clarke, S.R.N., the Sister alluded to above was trained at the Dulwich Hospital, London, 1932-1935, and was registered by Examination in November, 1935. Her colleagues in every service will indeed wish to congratulate Sister Elizabeth Clarke on the signal honour of nursing our great Prime Minister.

To judge from her portrait here presented—we feel sure the honour has been wisely bestowed; she has evidently a typical nursing personality, and in appearance the simple neatness of nurses of the past.

#### Help for St. Dunstan's.

"The War Office, through the kindly personal interest of the Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General, have released to St. Dunstan's a number of properties in

Church Stretton which they held under requisition. The principle has been recognised that Church Stretton is to be primarily set aside as the village in which St. Dunstan's is to undertake its benevolent work of treating and training the blinded men of the Empire and allied forces."

The new accommodation will enable St. Dunstan's to take up to 250 patients in the spring. No work is of greater value—it is so skilled and effective.

#### Army Fights Malaria in Burma.

Mr. Iain Lang, the special correspondent of the *Sunday Times*, does well to report from New Delhi the ravages of malaria in Burma. He states that throughout all the fighting in Burma the disease has been, and will continue to be, a major factor, and there is reason to believe that the

enemy's casualty rate from malaria is even higher than our own, but this does not lessen our imperative need to defeat the anopheles as part of our process of defeating the Japanese.

So, probably for the first time in the history of the military medical services, an autonomous organisation has been created to cope with one disease alone. Its task is two-fold—to control the disease at the bases and along the lines of communication and to give protection to troops in the fighting line. A network of strategic points has been set up covering all railway routes leading forward, and every railway carriage is regularly and systematically sprayed with mosquito killer.

Beyond the railheads, a chain of "harbours" has been created wherever there is likely to be a concentration of troops. Drainage, which denies the mosquito its breeding places in sluggish water, is the key to the safety of those in the harbours, and there is an indication of the scale of work in the fact that at one base in

Assam between 800 and 1,000 miles of drains have been dug.

Side by side with the work of protection there is constant research. Here the most effective method is close observation of small bodies of troops exposed to certain measurable risks. For example, unknown to themselves, a party of 150 British soldiers was kept under constant watch throughout a long journey made at a time of the year when malaria risks are exceptionally high. Only six men of the 150 went down with malaria.

Our Nursing Sisters attached should benefit from this scientific campaign.

#### AN INTERESTING EXHIBIT.

An oil painting of Sister E. M. Morris, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve was recently on view in the National Gallery. Miss Morris was chosen as a type of the Army Nursing Sisters serving with the Eighth Army during their advance in North Africa.



SISTER ELIZABETH LAVINIA CLARKE,  
S.R.N., Q.A.I.M.N.S., THE PRIME  
MINISTER'S NURSE.

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