

KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR LONDON.

REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING.

His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester, in his Presidential address at the 47th Annual Meeting of the General Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, recently held at the House of Lords, said that since the Council had last met, some of the hospitals in London had been amongst the targets of the latest form of "enemy action." He feared that several had suffered from direct hits or from the result of blast. There had been more than one account in the Press of the gallantry and presence of mind displayed by staff and patients alike when these regrettable incidents had occurred, and he was sure that the hospitals would face this new and temporary affliction as courageously as they did in that long winter of 1940-41. He expressed sincere sympathy with all those who had recently been affected.

The Duke said that it would be the last time he would be able to preside at a Council Meeting of the Fund before he left for Australia. It was laid down that in the prolonged absence overseas of the President, his powers could be delegated to a Committee, and to this end he had appointed the Speaker of the House of Commons, Lord Wigram, and the Governor of the Bank of England. He was sure that the Fund would continue to prosper and he wished the best of luck to every member of the Council till they met again.

Referring to the White Paper on the National Health Service, the Duke said: "We wish all success to the Minister in the very difficult task before him, and we welcome the indications he has given of his desire to find an enduring solution which will be generally acceptable. We do not believe that such a solution can be found by any method which fails to preserve the freedom of the medical profession and of voluntary hospitals. While we welcome assistance from public funds, it is of the first importance that it should be given in such a way that it will leave the Governing Bodies of Voluntary Hospitals and their Medical Staffs unfettered in their pursuit of health and healing. No vote of public monies can replace the personal affection and collective interest which has been lavished on the voluntary hospitals of London and the Provinces. The Fund has prepared a Statement of the Principles which we believe ought to actuate the new system, and also a detailed Memorandum of the considerations on which those Principles are founded.

"The King's Fund itself has had some encouraging news within the last few months. Not only is income fully maintained, but we have received a first instalment of a reversion from a Nuffield Trust for the Special Areas which was established seven years ago. Lord Nuffield provided that any sums that might be available by way of repayment of loans or otherwise from his Trust for the Special Areas should come to the King's Fund. The first instalment of £300,000 had been received. Lord Nuffield has asked that a grant of £250,000 be made out of this to Guy's Hospital." A recommendation that a grant of this amount be made towards the reconstruction of the Surgical Block at Guy's Hospital was subsequently adopted.

Speaking of the various activities of the Fund, the Duke said: "The work we are doing for the recruitment of nurses is as important as ever. Our contacts with the hospitals continue to impress on us the necessity, and indeed, the urgency, of doing all we can to help the hospitals to make the nurse's life all that it should be; and where sometimes lack of funds has held up improvements, a lead from the King's Fund has been specially valuable. The demand for the booklet on the Supervision of Nurses' Health has been widespread. The Fund has since made available a standard

form for the purpose of assisting hospitals to keep systematic records of the health of their nurses."

The Reports of the Emergency Bed Service and of the Nursing Recruitment Service, both showing substantially increased activity in 1943, were moved by Sir Harold Wernher and Dr. Morley Fletcher respectively.

A vote of thanks to the President was proposed by Sir William Collins, the doyen of the Council, who said he was present at the early meetings, in Marlborough House, when King Edward VII, as the Prince of Wales, was in the Chair. Lord Rothschild was Treasurer, and Lord Lister was Chairman of the Distribution Committee. He well remembered the letter in which the Founder (King Edward) appealed to the people of London to rally to this Fund in support of the voluntary hospitals. He was grateful to the Duke for vindicating the work of the voluntary hospitals, which provided a valuable outlet for personal disinterested service in a rather materialistic and self-seeking age. He was sure that when the Duke and Duchess went to Australia they would receive the warm-hearted affection of a freedom-loving democratic people.

Nursing Recruitment Committee.

The Nursing Recruitment Committee has issued an explanatory Report for the year 1943, which proves that its association with Nursing Schools has proved of use in many directions. Particulars as to pre-Nursing Courses, hospital training, and the possibilities of a Nursing career, may be obtained from the Recruitment Centre of the King's Fund, 21, Cavendish Square, W.1. The Recruitment Centre is staffed by trained nurses who are prepared to give information on all branches of nurse training. The Centre is in close touch with the hospitals and will supply particulars of their entrance requirements and teaching facilities..

Speakers on Nursing as a Career are sent to schools in any part of the country.

APPOINTMENTS.

LADY SUPERINTENDENT OF NURSES.

Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.—Miss Margaret C. Marshall, R.G.N., has been appointed Lady Superintendent of Nurses. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, where she was the winner of the "Affleck" Medal for distinction in Nursing, and received her training in Midwifery at the Royal Infirmary, Dundee. Miss Marshall has been Sister, Assistant Lady Superintendent of Nurses, and Deputy-Lady Superintendent of Nurses at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh; Matron at the Beechmount Radium Centre, Edinburgh; Principal Matron to the Department of Health for Scotland; and Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health for Scotland. This office is the most influential position in the Nursing world in Scotland, and we offer congratulations to Miss Margaret C. Marshall in having been selected for office—recognition well deserved after the important service she has rendered for national health in Scotland.

MATRON.

Bury Infirmary, Lancs.—Miss M. R. Dunning, S.R.N., S.C.M., D.A. (Lond.), has been appointed Matron. She was trained at St. Mary's Hospital, London, W., where she later did Night Sister's Relief duty, and has been Deputy-Matron and Tutor at the Wembley Hospital, Sister Tutor at the London Homœopathic Hospital and Assistant Sister Tutor and Ward Sister at St. Mary Abbots Hospital, London. Miss Dunning holds the Sister Tutor's and Housekeeping Certificates and is Fever trained.

SISTER TUTOR.

West Norfolk and King's Lynn General Hospital, King's Lynn.—Miss Winifred C. Prentice, S.R.N., has been appointed Sister-Tutor. She was trained in General Nursing at the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital, where she was a medallist; in midwifery at the West Middlesex County Hospital; and in housekeeping at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. Miss Prentice has been Ward Sister at the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital; Holiday Sister at the North Suffolk and Lowestoft Hospital; and Ward Sister at the Essex County Hospital, Colchester. She holds the Sister-Tutor Certificate of King's College of Household and Social Service.

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