

GENERAL MONTGOMERY HONOURED BY THE KING.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the promotion of General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, K.C.B., D.S.O., to be Field Marshal, a well deserved recognition of his strategic genius and devotion to duty, which has brought glory to the valiant men he has led to victory throughout the war in Africa, Italy and France.

Every nurse who is serving with mercy in the war, will rejoice that this great soldier has received recognition so well deserved.

THE ROYAL RED CROSS.

The King has given orders for the following appointments in recognition of distinguished service in Italy.

MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL RED CROSS.—Matron Miss Beatrix E. O'Dwyer-Thomas, T.A.N.S.; Matron Miss Sarah A. W. Wade, Q.A.I.M.N.S.; Asst. Matron Miss Ursula A. Dowling, Q.A.I.M.N.S.; Asst. Matron Miss Winifred Walshe, Q.A.I.M.N.S.

ASSOCIATES OF THE ROYAL RED CROSS.—Matron Miss Marjorie, C. Ellis, Q.A.I.M.N.S.; Sister Miss Joan M. A. Appleby, T.A.N.S.; Sister Miss Flora McD. Barbour, T.A.N.S.; Sister Miss Kathleen H. L. Fitzgerald, Q.A.I.M.N.S.; Sister Miss Margaret E. Gilks, T.A.N.S.; Sister Miss Margaret S. Goldsmith, S.A.M.N.S.; Sister Miss Muriel J. Jackson, N.Z.A.N.S.; Sister Miss Margaret C. Macrae, N.Z.A.N.S.; Sister Miss Rhoda A. Swarbrick, Q.A.I.M.N.S.; Sister Miss Theodora Turner, Q.A.I.M.N.S.

CANADIAN ARMY

ASSOCIATES OF THE ROYAL RED CROSS.—Lt. (Nursing Sister) Joan L. Gray, R.C.A.M.C.; Capt. (Matron) Helen G. Hewton, R.C.A.M.C.; Capt. (Matron) Margaret H. Kellough, R.C.A.M.C.; Lt. (Nursing Sister) Cecil M. MacDonald, R.C.A.M.C.

THE PURPLE HEART.

It is reported that Miss Anne W. Tinges, of Maryland, —a lieutenant in the American W.A.C.S.—has been awarded the Purple Heart, for injuries received while shielding a child from a flying bomb.

The award was announced recently by Brigadier-General Clarence P. Kane, Director of Administration of Air Service Command, U.S. Strategic Air Forces in Europe.

Lieutenant Tinges is the first W.A.C. officer to receive this decoration.

Although her leg was badly cut by flying glass, she reported for duty next morning.

She is one of the six W.A.C. officers who were given training at Oxford University and assigned to replace men at the Signal Centre of Air Service Command.

Lieutenant Tinges, who enlisted in the W.A.C. in October, 1942, and was commissioned in May, 1943, has been in England since December, 1943.

THE KING'S BADGE.

The King's Badge has been issued to those invalided from the Army, Navy, Air Force, the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets, for wounds, or war disablement attributed to service since September, 1939. These men indeed deserve some recognition of their suffering—and we hope it may be some consolation to those who so often suffer in silence—and to whom scant sympathy is offered.

THE BLOCK SYSTEM OF TRAINING NURSES.

The uprising and rapid progress of medical and surgical science during the past quarter of a century has demanded corresponding progress in the training of nurses. Whether the fact is recognised or not, it is imperative that nurses receive instruction to qualify them for the duties they will be called upon to perform primarily for the safety of the patient. Rule of thumb is obsolete. Thus, the Student Nurse has superseded the probationer, and long ere this the whole system of nursing, based on evolution of theory and practice should have been clearly defined by the Councils of Nursing empowered by Parliament to organise and enforce ever progressing standards; tentative efforts in nurse training have been initiated, but clear basic principles still remain to be defined and accepted. One thing is undeniable—theory and practice must each have a fair deal so as to produce the most skilled practical application of the science of nursing. Some day no doubt the strong women will arise, who will define and enforce the simple basic principles upon which the evolution of national health can be based. But it will not be done by any Council subject to autocratic lay Ministerial control. The evolution of the Science and Art of Nursing is the work of women, and just so long as men demand control just so long will it fail to attain its ultimate beneficence. The Nurses Acts, 1943, were inspired by ignorance and intolerance, and they must be swept away and liberal legislation substituted. It is almost incredible that legislation of so obsolete a type can be agreed by politicians in the twentieth century.

The Evolution of the Sister Tutor.

We note a glimmer of light in this cimmerian darkness. It emanates from the standard of knowledge acquired by the Sister Tutor—theoretical and scientific knowledge based on sound practical standards—cleanliness and comfort for the patient upon which to base his scientific treatment. Domestic Science comes first, it is the very basis of skilled nursing. Nothing in the curriculum equals its importance. Thus the nurse's own physical brain power is the pivot of perfection, and in selecting students expert experience is required. Their physical standard must ensure the skilled craftsman, and when physical perfection is at the disposal of the patient, its theoretical basis must be acquired. Thus we must provide in a scheme of training systematic instruction in practice and theory, and definite time accredited to each. Too often the present continuation of practical and theoretical work fails in its object, because of physical fatigue, and we have been greatly interested in what is termed the Block System of training nurses, which is apparently inspired by common sense. The Battersea Polytechnic Public Health Association recently held a meeting to discuss the Block System which has aroused wide interest, and the Scheme of Training in this system which may in the future be submitted to the Minister of Health.

Outline of the Scheme.

Students enter for a Preliminary Training Period of six weeks. After entry to hospital they have three periods of six weeks each, one in each year of training, when they leave the wards for study. The curriculum as printed appears excellently defined and includes:—

SUBJECT-MATTER FOR THE BLOCKS.

Preliminary Training School: 10 Weeks, 480 Hours.	
	Hours.
24 Anatomy and Physiology (lectures)	24
Practical work and discussions	40
14 Hygiene	14
6 Food values	6

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