

## LONDON HOSPITAL STUDENT-NURSES MAKE ONCE AGAIN IN TOUCH WITH SCANDINAVIA. DRASTIC DEMANDS.

The following statement appeared in the *Daily Express* on Monday, October 8th, and has been severely criticised by those supporting well-considered nursing reforms.

### NURSES PROTEST AT DO-DON'T SCHEDULE.

"Student nurses at the London Hospital, Whitechapel, E.—largest voluntary hospital in the country—are threatening to strike. They complain of 'early to bed' rules and 'non-fraternisation with the medical students' regulations.

They were drafting out a case yesterday which their representative will lay before the Matron, Miss C. H. Alexander, this morning.

Chief causes of grievance are that:—

'Staff have to be in by 10 p.m., late passes given once a week are valid only until 11 p.m., or midnight in very special cases.

A notice posted recently in the nurses' home reads:—

'In future the bathrooms are not to be used after 11 p.m. Radio sets are not to be used after 11 p.m. Tea lobbies are not to be used for any purpose after 11 p.m. Electric driers in the shampoo rooms are not to be used after 10 p.m. Tea lobbies are never to be used for toilet purposes.'

Nurses are not allowed to play mixed doubles with the medical students on the hospital tennis courts except once a year in an organised tournament. The hospital swimming bath must not be used for mixed bathing.

'We do not finish until after 7 p.m., then, if we are going out, we have to change, have something to eat and get across London to meet our friends,' said one nurse.

We all realise that matron is responsible for the few girls who are under 21. But most of us here are in the middle twenties.

'How many other women doing responsible work would want to switch off their radio programme at 11 every night or consider they were disturbing the rest of the house if they washed their hair after 10?'

As we go to press a meeting is being held at the Ministry of Health of representatives of the Rushcliffe Committee to consider nursing conditions. Let us hope some of the rank and file will be present to express their opinions about their own affairs. Self expression is their claim.

### WHAT TO READ.

#### MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

"In Search of Two Characters." Study of relations between the King of Rome and his father Napoleon.

"Mine Eyes Have Seen." Alfreda Withington, M.D.

#### FICTION.

"We Are Besieged." Barbara Fitzgerald.

"At Mrs. Lippincote's." Elizabeth Taylor.

"For Love Alone." Christina Stead.

"Eve." James Hadley Chase.

"Final Score." Warren Beck.

"For so Long as it Lasts." Molly Seymour.

"Crones Under Foot." Simon Dare.

"Time is Whispering." Susan Muir.

"Bungalow." Leonora Starr.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

"Duel for the Northland." Hurt Singer.

"East is West." Freya Stark.

"How to Look at Old Churches." H. Spencer Stowell.

"Eight Oaks." Stephen Lister.

"The Russian Glory." N. Mikhailov.

After years of silence owing to postal disabilities, letters are filtering through from the Continent, and those of us who know Scandinavia are specially pleased to come into touch with loyal little Denmark and Norway once again.

A Matron in Oslo writes to a colleague in England:—

"What troublous times we have both lived through since we last met in London. I have followed Great Britain's fight intensely from the very first. It was our fight. The photos of Churchill and Montgomery stand on my writing desk. What would the world have been without them to-day?"

"The last four years of the war has been a hide-and-seek life. I have, together with several others, had to stand before that terrible German Der Reichskommissar Perbooar in Der Reichskommissariat. We were treated like criminals; several were arrested, and we all lost our positions and all we stood for. A few months after that, some Nazi got me persecuted because 'I suffered from English sickness,' literally translated, while I am very, very much Norwegian, but, of course, pro-English. Anyhow, by that clever and daring body called 'illegal' I was helped by sea over to Sweden, rather a dramatic and hard flight on a cold and rainy November night, in a small open boat, but wonderfully well organised. My thankfulness and admiration for those young men who, without a thought for their own safety and their lives, helped me, cannot be described.

"Now I am back again in my own Matron's chair at the hospital. It is quite wonderful how things are straightening out after all these years of occupation and warfare, and *never* has our country been so beautiful as it is now!

"It is a very funny and unreal experience to be an emigrant or refugee."

From her colleague in England this Norwegian Matron received a "packet" containing luxuries not to be had in Norway, for which she is sincerely grateful.

"I look forward," she writes, "to some nice breakfasts and lovely afternoon teas. At present I can only say, thank you very, very much indeed.

"In Sweden I was in contact by letter with the President of the International Council of Nurses, dear Effie Taylor, who is now on the way to London. She hopes to visit Denmark, Sweden and Norway during late summer. I appreciate her very much. [It was not found possible to make these visits this autumn.—Ed.]

"In a year or so one may hope that communications will again become normal, and I shall be looking forward to meeting you again either in England or Norway. At present our shops are empty, and the restaurants and mountain hotels ruined by the Germans, but everything will be done and is being done to get things up to the old standard. But, of course, Rome was not built in a day; and it will indeed be very delightful to see you in Norway some day not too far away, and again thank you so much for your kindness towards me."

It always gave us special pleasure to realise the beneficent spirit which inspires the International Council of Nurses, and we congratulate these two Matrons on their inspiring friendship. It is such links which will ultimately civilise this distracted world.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Editor regrets that owing to pressure of space letters to the Editor must be held over.

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