

AN EPIC STORY FROM AUSTRALIA.

Headed "Heroic Nurses," *Una* places on record its admiration, with which we warmly sympathise, for the magnificent courage of the few nurses who escaped with their lives from the horrors of imprisonment by the Japanese.

HEROIC NURSES.

"All women who have had the privilege to wear the uniform of a trained nurse hail with sincere rejoicings that noble band whose release from the hands of a murderous crew of inhuman wretches comes after three and a half years of imprisonment, yet who face life with unbroken and unquenchable spirit.

The revolting brutalities perpetrated on helpless white enemies, men and women alike, show so similar a pattern of sadistic bestiality that the system must have been originated by those who held power in Japan.

The cold-blooded massacre of 29 Australian nurses, thrown into the sea from a ship torpedoed east of Sumatra, and then, wading ashore, were machine gunned to death, must arouse horror and righteous anger beyond the expression of civilised humanity.

The revelations coming in from day to day of callous torture, of bitter humiliation, of electric current playing on wet, nude bodies, of strenuous, continuous work on starvation diet among malaria infested country, will make even one who refuses to face the issue, acknowledge that the Japanese race is sub-human; beyond the pale of civilisation.

To the lasting honour of those few nurses who have survived among the 65 who were evacuated from Singapore, February, 1942, just before it fell, they retained their courage and integrity, their desire to help those worse off than themselves, their sense of decency and humour during unspeakable mental and physical privations. The epic story may be related as a whole, meantime one must be satisfied to receive it piecemeal. Never has the uniform of a member of the nursing service earned such well-deserved credit as it has in innumerable instances in the tragic tumult of 1939-1945.

That we have a man of General MacArthur's character to deal with war criminals must be a matter of congratulation to all who desire justice and the administration of condign punishment to vicious fiends and their underlings."

WELCOME HOME.

Army Nursing Services.

Matron V. C. D. Spedding, Q.A.I.M.N.S., having been wounded and a prisoner of war in the Dutch East Indies since the fall of Singapore, in February, 1942, has arrived home safely in the United Kingdom.

Sisters L. M. Harley, T.A.N.S., K. M. Jenkins, K. Woodman, N. Davies, L. McL. McLean, and F. M. Charman, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., have arrived home safely in the United Kingdom, having been Prisoners of War in the Dutch East Indies since the fall of Singapore.

APPOINTMENT.

Prince of Wales' General Hospital, Tottenham, London, N.—Miss Dorothy A. Allin, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Royal Hospital for Women and Sick Children, Bristol; Prince of Wales' General Hospital, Tottenham; and at Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, London. Miss Allin has held various posts as Sister, and has been Medical Ward Sister, Night Superintendent, Home Sister and Assistant Matron at the Prince of Wales' General Hospital.

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

A Meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the offices of the Council, 23, Portland Place, London, W., on November 23rd, 1945. Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., Chairman, presided.

Miss D. M. Smith was congratulated upon her appointment as Matron to Guy's Hospital; and Miss E. E. P. MacManus, the retiring Matron, was wished many years of happy retirement.

Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

A reply was received from the Minister of Health in connection with the proposed Amendments and Additions to the Rules; and it was agreed that the parts of the reply applicable to the various committees should be considered by those committees and reported to the Council.

The Council had asked the Minister of Health to extend the term of service of the Assistant Nurses Committee by two years. The Minister has sanctioned the extension by one year only.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £15,000 for Examiners' Claims and Examination Accommodation, £1,400 for Weekly Salaries, £500 for Postage, £50 for Insurance Stamps, £50 for Receipt Stamps, £30 for Inspectors Training Schools Expenses, and £20 for Petty Cash, allowed.

Estimates for stationery to the value of £392 0s. 9d. were accepted.

Registration.

Applications for approval for Registration were: General Register by reciprocity, 8; Supplementary Part of the Register for Mental Nurses, by reciprocity, 2; for Sick Children's Nurses, by reciprocity, 2; for Fever Nurses, by Examination 8, by reciprocity 2. Total, 22.

It was agreed that the names of 131 nurses who had hitherto failed to pay their retention fee and now wished their names re-included in the Register, should be re-included.

List of Nurses.

Applications to the List of Nurses were: General Nurses, 8; Male Nurses, 2; Sick Children's Nurses, 1. Total, 11.

Education and Examination.

A letter dated September 24th, 1945, had been received from the Secretary, National Advisory Council for the Recruitment and Distribution of Nurses and Midwives, enclosing a pamphlet on the Recruitment of Nurses, and the reply to be sent, were considered *in camera*.

Application for approval of Hospital as Complete Training School for Male Fever Nurses, the first for Male Fever Nurses, was granted.

Applications for approval of additional scheme of affiliation, for continuation of approval, were agreed.

At the Examinations held in September, 2,494 candidates passed the Preliminary Examination; 1,063 passed Part I only, and 831 passed Part II only; 4,344 passed the Final Examinations.

Assistant Nurses.

It was agreed that 1,057 applicants had been approved, and their names included in the Roll of Assistant Nurses.

It was agreed that the following London County Council Hospitals be approved as Training Schools for Assistant Nurses: St. Alfege's Hospital, S.E.10; St. Francis Hospital, S.E.22; Hackney Hospital, E.9; St. John's Hospital, S.W.11; St. Matthew's Hospital, N.1; St. Pancras

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