

THE WAR.

Many Casualties from Bombs.

The reticence maintained by the Press on the Rocket damage to London presumably has its inspiration, but with thousands of foreigners from all over the world resident in, and in and out of Great Britain, we have very little faith that the damage of these murder machines is not known from whence they emanate.

We quote the following report from *The Times* so that our colleagues abroad and in the Dominions may realise how serious is the damage to life and property, and how unwise it is to visit the Metropolis unless from the necessity of duty.

"A convent, a hospital, and two cinemas were among the buildings damaged by recent V-bombs in southern England. Several persons, including children, were killed and many were injured.

"Mothers and babies had to be removed in the middle of the night from a damaged ward when a V-bomb fell in the grounds of a maternity hospital. There were no casualties. The administrative block and operating theatre were damaged by blast.

"In another incident every window in a convent in which 50 nuns were sleeping and in the schools was smashed, but no one was hurt. The children's dormitory was sheltered from the blast by a wing of the convent. Only a few windows were broken, and half a dozen boarders, the oldest aged 16, slept on. Houses in the neighbourhood were destroyed and some people were killed and others were seriously injured. Several children were among the dead. Rescue workers dug for 10 hours for five missing persons. They were assisted by specially trained Alsatian dogs, which located three elderly people among the ruins. They were all dead.

"Seven persons, including a 10-week-old baby, were killed and others were injured in another incident. The V-bomb fell in gardens which are bounded by three rows of small houses, some of which collapsed, burying the occupants. Damage was done to a stand on a football ground. A garage suffered severely and some buses were damaged. There were several casualties among the employees.

"A cinema and shops were wrecked by another V-bomb. A police box only a few yards away escaped damage, but the constable who was on duty outside was killed. Many houses suffered damage, but were shielded by the cinema from the full effects of the blast.

"Five hundred people in a cinema had narrow escapes when a V-bomb crashed near. There were only minor casualties among the audience, who left the cinema over a carpet of shattered glass and plaster from the ceiling."

Such tragedies are repeated daily, and the magnificent courage of the British people in London and Southern England will remain an epic as long as the world exists.

136,000 Civilian War Casualties.

Mr. H. Morrison, Home Secretary, in a written Parliamentary answer, states that the total numbers of civilian casualties due to enemy action in the United Kingdom from the outbreak of war to September 30th, 1944, are as follows:—

Killed (or missing believed killed), 57,468. Injured and detained in hospital, 79,178. In round figures, the total number of dwellings destroyed in the same period was 190,000, and the total damaged but repairable was 4,000,000.

The Home Secretary stated that for reasons of security he is unable to give separate figures for casualties or dwellings for London or elsewhere.

No statistics are apparently available for the devastation and deaths from October 1st, 1944, to date from bombs and rockets which are almost of daily occurrence.

NURSING POLITICS.

It is indeed a relief to realise that we Registered Nurses, in opposition to the de-grading of our profession through the Nurses Act, 1943, promoted by the late Minister of Health, Mr. Ernest Brown, with the support of the Royal College of Nursing and the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, have again an honourable representative in the House of Commons, an advantage which we have not enjoyed since the death of Sir Richard Barnett, M.P. for S.W. St. Pancras, whose generous treatment of the Nursing Profession in allotting to it his place in the Ballot, at last, after a struggle of 30 years for legal status, compelled the Government of the day in 1919 to take action, and promote the State Registration of Nurses.

It is with the greatest pleasure that we announce that Sir Waldron Smithers, M.P. for Chislehurst, has agreed to support the Registered Nurses' demand for justice.

It is almost unbelievable that of the 13 women Members of Parliament to whom we appealed for help in 1943 that only one, Mrs. Agnes Hardie, M.P. for Springburn, Glasgow, really understood the fact that skilled nursing was a profession, or took the slightest interest in this great question of efficient nursing of the sick, rich and poor.

We hope that Registered Nurses will support the efforts of Sir Waldron Smithers in his campaign for justice, not only for themselves, but for the sick, whom they serve.

JUSTICE FOR THE SICK, RICH AND POOR.

The Nursing Profession has to thank Sir Waldron Smithers, M.P., for again bringing the question of injustice to Registered Nurses, permissible through Rule 19 of the Nurses Act, 1943, for the question addressed to the Minister of Health in the House of Commons on February 1st.

Nurses Act (Regulations).

Sir W. Smithers asked the Minister of Health in view of the further information which has been sent to him, whether he will, in order to remove an injustice, introduce legislation to amend Regulation 19 of the Nurses Act, 1943.

Mr. Willink: "No, Sir. I do not accept the suggestion that there is any injustice."

Sir W. Smithers: "Will the right hon. and learned gentleman have the details of this matter again re-examined, and remove what is believed to be a glaring injustice?"

Mr. Willink: "No, sir. My hon. friend asked me a question about this two or three months ago, and I looked into it then."

No recent legislation has been enacted in Parliament of a more ignorant and tyrannical nature than the hasty passage of the Nurses Act, 1943, promoted by Messrs. Ernest Brown, M.P., and Ernest Bevin, M.P., the Ministers of Health and Labour, this Bill being practically of a secret nature, as organised Registered Nurses were denied upon three occasions the right of interview with Mr. Ernest Brown, Minister of Health, who hurriedly with the aid of his Parliamentary Secretary, pushed this measure through Parliament.

This notoriously "confidential" piece of legislation made it possible, under Rule 19, to use the Registered Nurses' fees, if necessary, for the organisation of a class of unqualified Assistant Nurses, whom qualified Registered Nurses consider a very serious danger to the sick poor, should their own fee of only one guinea not suffice to cover their necessary expenses.

In our opinion there never has been a more unjust measure placed upon the Statute Book of this country, than the Nurses Act, 1943, and there is no doubt that until the Registration fees of qualified nurses cannot be utilised by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, thousands of Registered Nurses, as reported officially by the Council this month, will decline to pay their yearly retention fee, and remain under the control of a Ministry

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