

nursing and medical services have a very necessary part to play in building the better world.

So I feel that we should endeavour to recapture the spirit of Florence Nightingale and her followers. They created something noble out of a thing that was definitely sordid. We can do the same by raising the profession from becoming commonplace. We must raise the whole business of tending the sick to its rightful level in the general estimation so that it will receive the long overdue recognition it deserves. Only then will girls be once more attracted to it and so it will flourish as never before and also at the most needed time in the nation's history.

Florence Nightingale was "The Lady of the Lamp." We must rekindle that lamp. Much rests with the Government, and here let us hope the legislation following the Rushmore Report will bring about the long-awaited improvements in conditions. Meanwhile it is within the scope of everyone to do his or her part now.

#### A HAPPY SOCIAL EVENT.

Dame Katharine Jones, D.B.E., R.R.C., was the principal guest at a small tea party held at United Nursing Services Club on July 23rd, 1945.

The party was given to mark the occasion of a presentation to Dame Katharine of a cheque and an illuminated manuscript booklet containing extracts from letters of appreciation of her valuable work for the nursing profession. Principal Matron D. Richardson, R.R.C., T.A.N.S., made the presentation on behalf of the trained nurses who had served with Dame Katharine. Unfortunately, it was not possible for more than a small representative proportion to be present of those who desired to do honour to this distinguished member of the Nursing World.

Dame Katharine was greatly touched by the remembrance and hoped that her thanks and good wishes might be passed to all concerned with the assurance that her interest in them all is, and always will be, maintained.

#### CONGRATULATIONS.

The Matrons-in-Chief of the Services—Navy, Army, and Air Force—are entertaining at tea, at the United Nursing Services' Club, 34, Cavendish Square, Colonel Chow Mei-Yu, principal of the Chinese Army Nurses, College, and director of the Chinese Nurses' Association. It is hoped that Colonel Chow will give a little informal talk. Those honoured with an invitation to meet Colonel Chow Mei-Yu, will be able to offer hearty congratulations, that at last the valour of the most artistic people in the world has triumphed over its treacherous enemy Japan.

#### NURSING RECONSTRUCTION.

*The Medical Press and Circular* has devoted more space to the discussion of Nursing Reconstruction, aroused by Dr. Ernest C. Hadley's remarkable article on "The Future Training of Nurses," from which we quoted at length in our last issue. Miss Marjorie Houghton merely puts forward and advocates the policy already agreed by the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services in 1939—which alas! began the de-grading campaign in the Nursing Profession which has already produced such serious results—and which, if persisted in, will abolish Nursing as a Profession for educated women.

## NURSING ECHOES.

Her Majesty Queen Mary has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of 125 nurses to be Queen's Nurses: 99 in England, 4 in Wales, 17 in Scotland and 5 in Northern Ireland.

We are always pleased to read of the fine work of the London Hospital—where as a Sister we spent some of the happiest days of our life. Its strenuous work has always commanded devotion. The *Times* recently reported the opening of a kitchen suite to replace the nurses' kitchen which was destroyed by a flying bomb.

"About £7,000 has been spent in converting a large basement ward into a series of bright kitchen units equipped with labour-saving appointments and cooking facilities that equal anything seen in a modern hotel. They are under the direction of expert chefs. To-day women assistants have replaced the 40 male cooks employed before the war.

"Not only in the preparation of the meals which entails a day and night service for 300 nurses and 30 doctors and a daily consultation between the steward, the *chef de cuisine*, and the sister dietitians, but also in the presentation of the food to patients and the staff care is taken to whet the appetite.

"Sir Wilson Jameson, Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, who spoke at the opening ceremony (at which Sir John Mann, chairman of the hospital, presided), congratulated 'the London' on the lead which it had given in hospital catering, to which, he said, not nearly enough attention had been given generally.

"In some institutions conditions were appalling for night nurses, who had to prepare their own meals or reheat food cooked considerably earlier. The London Hospital had done a magnificent job in raising the standard of hospital cooking and in its regard for proper nutrition, and he hoped that other hospitals would follow its example."

Criticism of the present system of nurse control in hospitals has appeared in several leading papers during the past month. Depreciation of the Matron's power is thinly veiled in the criticism by medical superintendents. What with Sister Tutors, Dietitians, College Wardens and other officers, it would appear the Matron is a back number. The fact that as a powerful body of 1,000 strong, they did not unite to prevent de-grading of nursing standards, is widely resented by many Registered Nurses, especially those in private practice.

It is to be hoped that the new Minister of Health will consult the Nursing Profession on their own affairs—for years they have been absolutely ignored. Thus we note it reported that at Spalding, Lincs., there were recently only *two* assistant nurses to look after 80 patients. On another occasion there was one nurse for 68 patients.

The schemes advocated: living out amongst them, and no ward work, presupposes that the real basis of character—real sympathy with the sick and *pleasure in serving them with devotion*—no longer exists in the modern student nurse. This we do not believe.

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