

"While the exact number of nurses' awards for gallantry throughout the profession is not yet known, the total will probably be about 1,000," said Mr. Anéurin Bevan, Minister of Health, when he addressed doctors and nurses at Rush Green Emergency and Isolation Hospital, Romford, Essex, recently, the third anniversary of the first flying bomb casualties. Mr. Bevan was unveiling a memorial to nurses of the hospital who lost their lives during the war. He recalled that three days after the flying bomb attacks started, six patients and two members of the nursing staff were killed and a ward destroyed when the hospital was hit.

"In the flying bomb attacks, hospitals were hit with astonishing regularity," said Mr. Bevan. "A total of 76 hospitals were damaged in London alone in less than four months, and 2,600 beds permanently lost; in all, 24 members of hospital staffs were killed and 146 injured; 138 patients killed and 1,155 injured. The total casualties among nurses on all the fighting fronts, London included, have not been computed finally, but it is likely that the total killed in all branches of nursing will be in the region of 1,000. Gallantry among nurses is taken for granted, but it is very significant that of the first 30 George Medals awarded to women during the war, 15 went to members of the nursing profession."

Turning to the future, Mr. Bevan said: "Although nursing is rightly regarded as a vocation, that is no reason for regarding it as the Cinderella of the professions. We are determined to see that the nurse has her rightful place in the new hospital service that we are now building up. The demand for nurses has never been so great as it is to-day; that is because of the rapid expansion of our medical services. Many more young women than before the war, I am glad to say, are choosing nursing as their career. They will, I am sure, find it wonderfully satisfying work. My aim will be to see that the conditions under which they carry out their vital job are as good as can be."

A reception was held under the auspices of the Princess Tsahai Memorial Hospital at the Mayfair Hotel, W.1, on June 26th, 1947, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., to meet the Ethiopian Minister, Canon Douglas, Mr. Esmé Percy, Lord Rochester, C.M.G., and Sir Harry Sinderson C.M.G., M.V.O., O.B.E.

Miss Pankhurst, the very able chairman, opened the proceedings by sketching the importance of Ethiopia in past and future history and she also gave a charming outline of the life and work of the late Princess Tsahai. Other speakers likewise spoke in great admiration of the Princess and told the assembly that £20,000 was needed for the interior equipment of the Memorial Hospital in order to get it opened, so that its great work could begin. Mr. Esmé Percy spoke regretfully of being unable to arrange a charity *matinée*, but he promised to try to arrange a broadcast appeal.

A collection was taken, and £50 was added to the funds. Cheques and postal orders may be made payable to Lord Horder, c/o Messrs. H. Reynolds and Co., Hon. Chartered Accountants, 1, Bloomsbury Court, W.C.1.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

A Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses Ltd., was held on Thursday, June 12th, 1947, at 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, at 2.30 p.m.

The Vice-President, Mrs. Thomas Barber, D.N. (Lond.), was in the chair, and there were present Miss E. Martin, R.R.C.; Miss A. S. Bryson (Fellows); Miss Dorothy de M. Warren D.N. (Lond.), and Miss B. G. Sorlie (Members). Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Correspondence.

A letter, from Miss Alice M. Morse, Director, School of Nursing, Grant Hospital of Chicago, of thanks for the Nightingale Brick presented to the Grant Hospital by the President of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., Miss H. McLoughlin, when attending the International Congress of Nurses in Atlantic City. Of this event Miss Moore kindly promises us a further communication.

Miss M. B. MacKellar, S.R.N., Matron, Royal London Ophthalmic (Moorfields) Hospital, was unanimously elected a Fellow of the Council, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the retirement from the Council of Miss E. F. Brownsdon.

Miss MacKellar has previously served as a Councillor and has contributed valuable service to the College.

Election of Fellows and Members.

Applications for membership were received and all were elected, after the transaction of a considerable amount of business.

Votes of Thanks.

A very warm vote of thanks was accorded Miss E. Martin, R.R.C., and Miss M. B. MacKellar (Fellows) for their very adequate clerical help rendered on behalf of the College.

The meeting then terminated.

A NOTE TO FELLOWS AND MEMBERS.

We sincerely hope that progressive Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., who have the well-being of Registered Nurses at heart, will read the advertisement on page iii relating to the election of two Fellows and two Members to the Council. Now is the time for younger Registered Nurses to inform themselves on matters of vital importance to their Profession, and to assist in the government of their College. We hope that this office will be flooded with applications for nominations.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.

FOR BLIND TELEPHONISTS ONLY.

For the exclusive use of blind telephone trainees, G.P.O. and N.I.B. engineers have produced an apparatus which when attached to a dial shows up in Braille every letter and figure dialled. An error can be detected immediately.

It is emphasised that the new device is intended for training purposes only, and will not be used on "live" switchboards.

Cathedral Chairs to Mend.

One of the National Institute's blind homeworkers has received an order for the repair of 150 rush chairs in Canterbury Cathedral.

Lord Moran.

Lord Moran has been appointed chairman of the medical advisory board of the Alfred Eichholz Clinic in Great Portland Street, London. The clinic is staffed by blind men and women, qualified physiotherapists, trained at the Institute's school.

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