

PRIZE-GIVING DAY AT WHIPPS CROSS HOSPITAL

The distribution of medals and prizes to the nurses of Whipps Cross Hospital, Leytonstone, on Thursday, October 7th, 1948, was an occasion of which the Hospital authorities and all concerned must be justly proud.

The ceremony took place in the Nurses' Home, where the artistic decoration of gay clusters of towering palms, plants and rich coloured flowers aroused the admiration of a very large audience assembled there.

The proceedings were opened by the Chairman of the Management Committee, A. R. Sherrell, Esq., E.C.C., who, in paying high tribute to the able, efficient work of the Matron, the Medical Superintendent and the Sister Tutors, said how much they all enjoyed this Great Day, when their efforts were being acknowledged by the public. On this occasion they were most fortunate that Lady Rhys Williams, D.B.E., had accepted their invitation to present the awards, and they felt especially honoured to have one of Lady Rhys Williams' forceful character, as her Ladyship was a woman who succeeded in getting a Bill passed in the House of Commons without being a Member of Parliament.

Lady Williams expressed warm appreciation of the high standard of the nurses' work and considered that at Whipps Cross the nurses worked up to the standard of the pioneers of fifty years ago in devotion and efficiency, and that it gave her great pleasure to present the awards, which her Ladyship proceeded to do. How cheering the sight of the bright eyes and eager faces of those young nurses who have chosen a calling second to none; in their high endeavour they inspire us with confidence for the future welfare of the sick.

Awards

Gold Medals—Elizabeth McLaughlin Kirk, Anne Flood.

Silver Medal—Helen Willatt.

Bronze Medal—Gwendolyn Hilda Turp.

Chairman's Prize for Efficiency and Good Conduct—Mary Teresa Neville.

Medical Staff Prize for Medicine—Anne Flood.

Prize for Surgery and Surgical Nursing—Elizabeth McLaughlin Kirk.

Nurses' League Prize for Practical Nursing—Patrick Joseph Nicholson.

Medical Superintendent's Prize for Anatomy and Physiology—Edith Joan Keating (Sister Matilda), Lewis Jack Chandler.

Matron's Prize for Elementary Nursing—Edith Joan Keating (Sister Matilda).

Preliminary Training School—July–September, 1947, Doris Heptinstall; September–March, 1947, Gertrude Edith Gordon; December–March, 1948, Thelma Kinney; March–June, 1948, Elsie May Helmer.

Hospital Final Certificates—Edith McLaughlin Kirk, Anne Flood, Helen Willatt, Gwendolyn Hilda Turp, Betty Clark, Patrick Joseph Nicholson, Ronald Gordon James Turner, Frances Mary Corry, Grace Muriel Roberts, Phyllis Mary Spanswick, Winifred Amy Joyce Pickett, Beatrice Louise Nelson, Mary Wall, Julia Murphy, Elizabeth Cecilia O'Riordan, Ellen Bergin, Allan John Pryer, Doreen Mary Rollins, Mary Teresa Neville, Theresa Kehelly, Valerie Patricia Stafford, Ena Mary Cheriton, Ada Rosenberg, Dorothy Alice Bradshaw, Joycelyn Conty Brown, Patricia Elizabeth Crump, Margaret Maud Bree, Peggy Badcock, Ruth Soloman, Herbert Gaynor, Olive Helen Ward, Audrey Maud Awburn, Eileen Joan Wade.

The Matron, Miss K. M. Fogarty, then addressed the meeting:—

It is indeed a very great pleasure to see so many of our friends here this afternoon. I know that most of you have had to make an effort to get here and that when you return you will have to make up arrears in work.

Prize-giving day in all schools is a very eventful one and is much looked forward to by both students and their friends. I, personally, look back on it and I can assure you it is a more pleasant feeling for me.

Your programme says that Matron will give an address, and for a few minutes I crave your interest.

Part of this address, I feel, should be a brief story of Whipps Cross Hospital in so far as it directly affects the training of nurses.

The story opens in the year 1899 when the estate on which the Hospital stands was purchased and comprised about 44 acres of gardens, pleasure-grounds and meadowland, in addition to the mansion of Forest House.

The foundation stone of the Hospital was laid on July 26th, 1900, and the Hospital was opened in 1903 with 674 beds. A new wing of 500

beds was added in 1938, also a Maids' Home and, at the same time, an extension to the Nurses' Home.

The first Hospital Prize-giving Day was held on November 17th, 1917. Prior to this the certificates were handed to the Nurses by the Chairman of the Board as they filed past him in the Board Room. November 17th, 1917, was therefore a "red-letter day" in every sense of the word, for their Majesties, the



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