

how stern our trials appear to be; no matter how "over organised," we are, all our conscious and unconscious efforts for good were acceptable and would be rewarded. In our multiplicity of groups we had found unity in service.

We are indebted to Male Staff Nurse A. Whittaker for the illustration here presented.

G. M. H.

## BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

### PRIZES FOR NURSES.

The Council of the British Medical Association is prepared to consider the award in 1949 of three prizes, each of the value of 20 guineas, for the best essay, and three prizes, each of the value of 10 guineas, for the second best essay submitted in open competition by each of the following categories of nurses:

- (i) Pupil Nurses.
- (ii) State Registered Nurses working in a hospital.
- (iii) State Registered Nurses not working in a hospital, *i.e.*, District Nurses, Private Nurses, etc.

The subject of the essays for 1949 shall be:

Category (i)—

"What Discipline do you think necessary in the Training of Nurses?"

Category (ii)—

"What part of Nursing Duties can be delegated to others with safety?"

Category (iii)—

"The Care of Old People in their Own Homes."

The purpose of these prizes is the promotion of systematic observation among nurses. In awarding the prizes *due regard will be given to evidence of personal observation*. No essay that has previously appeared in the Medical Press or elsewhere will be considered eligible for a prize.

Nurses who are undergoing training at a hospital are eligible to compete under category (i); nurses registered by the General Nursing Council are eligible to compete under categories (ii) and (iii).

If any question arises in reference to the eligibility of a candidate or the admissibility of his or her essay, the decision of the Council of the British Medical Association shall be final.

Should the Council decide that no essay entered is of sufficient merit, no award shall be made.

Each essay must be typewritten or legibly written in the English language, must be unsigned, and must have attached to it a sealed envelope containing the name and address of the candidate and the category into which he or she falls. Essays must reach the Secretary of the British Medical Association not later than March 31st, 1949.

Enquiries relative to the prizes should be addressed to the Secretary, British Medical Association, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

## NURSING ECHOES.

### THE KING'S ILLNESS.

The grave news of the King's illness announced over the radio on Tuesday, November 23rd, came as a great shock to the people of this country and all over the world, and those moments of this disturbing intelligence will remain an unforgettable memory of consternation and deep anxiety for the King.

Our sympathy goes out to Her Majesty the Queen and the members of the Royal Family, and to the people of Australia and New Zealand in their disappointment that their Majesties' visit to them, so eagerly awaited, must be indefinitely postponed.

It is now realised that the King's illness is the price of unremitting devotion to duty and unyielding endurance of anxious responsibility, unwaveringly borne during the twelve years of his eventful reign. It is now our present hope that response to the most skilful treatment will effect a complete cure, and in the words of *The Daily Telegraph* editorial: "His people will watch for that happier day, and, meanwhile, whenever the occasion arises for the toast to His Majesty, we shall all drink with a new reason and with new fervour."

The 21st birthday of Princess Mary's Hospital at Halton, the leading R.A.F. hospital, was celebrated on November 1st. In honour of the occasion H.R.H. The Princess Royal inspected the hospital, where she was the guest of the members of the Nursing Service which bears her name.

Among the guests present were Marshal of the R.A.F. Lord Tedder, Air-Marshal J. Whitworth-Jones, A.O.C.-in-C. Technical Training Command, and Air-Marshal P. C. Livingston, Director General of R.A.F. Medical Services. Miss Cargill, Matron-in-Chief, P.M.R.A.F.N.S., together with Principal Matrons, Miss Acheson, and Miss Sopp, Matron of the hospital, were presented to the Princess on her arrival.

After signing the visitors' book, Her Royal Highness inspected several of the wards including those for W.A.A.F.'s and airmen's families, plastic and orthopaedic surgery, speaking to all the patients individually as she went round. The tour, at the Princess's own request, included a visit to the patients' library. The Princess Royal had lunch in the Sisters' Mess, and met those members of the nursing staff not presented to her during the inspection.

The hospital at Halton, on the Chiltern Hills, in lovely Buckinghamshire, accommodates over 600 patients. The work done there includes all aspects of general medicine and surgery, with a large unit for the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis. There is also a very fine Institute of Pathology and Tropical Medicine where much active research work is done.

It was not possible in so brief a visit to appreciate fully the wide scope of work in this hospital. We left, however, with the satisfactory feeling that the health and welfare of R.A.F. personnel are of prime importance at Halton.

M. H. T.

The distribution of Badges and Prizes to the Nursing Staff of the Manchester Royal Infirmary was performed by Miss A. M. Bozman, M.A., Headmistress of the Manchester High School for Girls, on December 6th at the

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