

## NURSING ECHOES.

### TO A YEAR OF HIGH ENDEAVOUR.

With the advent of the New Year we wish to impress upon our colleagues the grave and fundamentally vital problems in nursing affairs now pending solution, and the duty of all registered members of the Profession, to take wise council and make the weight of their influence felt.

In wishing our colleagues a truly happy and prosperous 1948 we pray that they may enjoy the happiness that springs from their sincere courage and support of well founded convictions.

Her Majesty Queen Mary has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of 114 nurses to be Queen's Nurses; 93 in England, 16 in Scotland, 3 in Wales, and 2 in Northern Ireland.

The collections made in aid of hospitals and charities for the sick on Alexandra Day last year nearly reached £140,000; the Metropolitan area street collections brought in £42,718 7s. 1d.

Nurses holding the certificate of The Royal Medico-Psychological Association who desire to obtain admission to the part of the Register for Mental Nurses and/or for Nurses for Mental Defectives, are now invited to make application to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Letters should be addressed to The Registrar, 23, Portland Place, London, W1, and should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

Miss E. Baker, S.R.N., S.C.M., who has held the Matronship of the Skin Hospital since April, 1944, has resigned, consequent upon her appointment as Matron of the Hertford County Hospital, Hertford. She left on December 15th, 1947, taking with her the best wishes of the many friends she has made during her stay in Birmingham both inside and outside the hospital.

The Board of Management has recorded by Minute its appreciation of her services, and at its November meeting the President, Alderman L. G. H. Alldridge, O.B.E., J.P., presented Miss Baker with an illuminated version of this Minute bound in morocco. At the same time, the Chairman of the Board, Mr. C. E. Amphlet, presented Miss Baker with a cheque voted by the Board of Management and another subscribed by individual members of the Board.

Miss Baker is succeeded by Miss M. A. Fay, S.R.N., S.C.M., who has been Assistant Matron to the hospital since 1944.

Miss Fay came to the Skin Hospital from the Eye Hospital, Birmingham, where she held the post of Administrative Sister, amongst her previous appointments being that of Day Ward Sister at Lewisham Hospital, London; Night Sister at that hospital; and, in turn, Home Sister, Sister Tutor and Second Assistant Matron at the Joint Counties Hospital, Carmarthen, leaving to take her Housekeeping Certificate at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.

A native of Northern Ireland, Miss Fay entered the nursing profession in 1929, taking her General Training for State Registration at St. Andrew's Hospital, London,

her Maternity Training for State Certificated Midwife at the Maternity Hospital, Birmingham. In 1944, Miss Fay successfully sat for Part A of the Diploma of Nursing of the London University.

A most successful function was held on December 11th, when Alderman Miss M. L. Kingsmill Jones, O.B.E., M.A., J.P., the Mayor of Manchester, showed her interest in the Nursing Staff of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, by attending to present prizes and badges to the 72 Hospital Nurse Finalists.

Nurse Barbara Simmons received the Lay Board Prize and Certificate; Medical Board Prizes and Certificates were presented to Nurse M. G. Andrew, Nurse B. Simmons and Nurse P. Woodhall; and the Lambert Prize and Certificate was awarded to Nurse Pamela Handley.

Alderman Miss Kingsmill addressed the Nurses, who much appreciated her attendance at their prize-giving, and a vote of thanks was proposed by Nurse Barbara Simmons, and seconded by Nurse Pamela Handley, and greeted with acclamation by those present.

Much of the success of the day was due to the untiring efforts and preparation, during months of training, of the Lady Superintendent of Nurses, Miss L. G. Duff Grant, and the Sister-Tutors, without whom no prize-giving could have taken place.

Having recently visited a sick friend in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and having been treated with the greatest possible courtesy, it gave us particular pleasure to learn that the Hospital will materially benefit by upwards of £2,000. One benefactor, Mr. Frank Barrett, a retired gas collector, left all his property to the Hospital.

We were pleased to receive greetings and good wishes from Miss B. G. Alexander, R.R.C., of South Africa, who has been intimately connected with international nursing affairs for many years.

She is the First Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses, and from 1937 to 1947 was the Chairman of the Ethics of Nursing Committee.

We learn from *The South African Nursing Journal* that the Board of the South African Nursing Association is to compile a History of Nursing in South Africa. As in other countries, the Nursing Profession in the Union of South Africa has passed through many vicissitudes and it was a long road to the passing of the Nursing Act in 1944.

The unfolding of the events over the last 50 years should make a fascinating story.

In South Africa, as in this country, the *Journal*, first published in 1913, was the earliest means of organising nursing opinion in the Union. The late Dr. John Tremble was the Founder of the South African Trained Nurses' Association (the forerunner of the South African Nurses' Association), and he was the first Editor of the *Journal*. He will surely have a prominent place in the History, as will Miss B. G. Alexander, who was General Secretary from 1915 to 1930, and General President for an aggregate period of seven years.

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