

### NURSING ECHOES.

The War Office announces that His Majesty The King has been pleased to approve of the appointment of Chief Principal Matron Miss A. Thomson, R.R.C., Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, to be Matron-in-Chief, War Office, in succession to Dame Louise J. Wilkinson, D.B.E., R.R.C., who will retire in July next on completion of the tenure of her appointment.

Miss Thomson was Principal Matron and Chief Principal Matron in India from 1946 until the beginning of 1948, previous to which she held office as Principal Matron at the War Office for 2½ years. She saw service with the B.E.F. in 1940 and later in the Middle East.

It was with great pleasure indeed that we looked forward to the Reception of the Matron-in-Chief to Officers of the Q.A.I.M.N.S., which took place on Monday afternoon, April 12th, 1948, at Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, London, and our anticipations were not disappointed.

As it was the first reception to take place since the end of the war, there prevailed, as of old, a delightfully friendly yet dignified atmosphere, although we missed the distinctive scarlet tippets and the beautiful white caps which always made such a picturesque feature of similar gatherings in pre-war days. There was great delight felt everywhere that Her Majesty Queen Mary had found it possible to be there, after having attended the ceremony in the morning of the unveiling of the statue to President Roosevelt. It is well known that Queen Mary takes a very special interest in this particular branch of the Services of the Crown, and has indeed given much friendship and sympathy to it down the years which has encouraged its members through many dangerous and stressful times.

The large gathering stood to attention as Queen Mary entered, with Dame Louise Wilkinson, D.B.E., R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, and after they were seated, having been joined by other members of the Services and a few invited guests, the whole gathering settled down to enjoy the delightful tea that had been provided. Grouped around the tables were many old friends, doctors and nurses, who compared adventures and experiences in near and far-off lands.

After Her Majesty had gone, the Reception Room guests began to mingle in search of friends. All appeared eager to renew friendships and strengthen links made during the intervening years.

Perhaps no reception of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. was ever enjoyed quite so thoroughly as this one, so much time had passed that there were many memories to link up long-standing friendship.

In the adjoining hall, to which Queen Mary and the Matron-in-Chief had adjourned, there were many presentations of members of the Service and its friends made to Her Majesty, and it is possible that never has a greater sense of loyalty, devotion and admiration been felt for her by those who were present at this impromptu ceremony.

Queen Mary stood there quite a long time, keenly interested, ready with words for every one presented. Sometimes she questioned, sometimes it was a kindly word of encouragement that she passed on, and not only those presented but others also felt the kindness

that prompted Her Majesty to have so many presentations at this gathering of nurses.

A reunion for past and present nursing officers, regular and reserve, of Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service will be held in London on Saturday, June 19th at 4 to 6 p.m.

Any nursing officer desirous of attending should apply before May 31st to the Principal Matron, Air Ministry, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 for a ticket, enclosing 5s. 6d. for the cost of the ticket. Admission will be by ticket only.

The Right Honourable Arthur Woodburn, M.P., Secretary of State for Scotland, with a distinguished party, which included Mrs. Woodburn, paid a visit recently to the Crichton Royal Mental Hospital, Dumfries. Mr. Woodburn, in addition to visiting a number of the wards and special departments of the hospital, looked in on the School of Nursing, where the block system was in progress. He also paid a short visit to one of the nurses' homes.

Mrs. Woodburn expressed special interest in the activities of the school and spoke of the work that is being done in Edinburgh in the pre-nursing courses for girls just leaving school—work in which she is taking an active interest.

Mr. Woodburn remarked that with its unrivalled amenities and unique facilities for the giving of modern treatments and the education of the mental nurse, the Crichton should play a special part in the new Health Scheme.

The Nurses' Christian Movement is holding its annual meeting in the nurses' recreation room, Charing Cross Hospital, London on May 7th at 3 p.m. The hostess of the meeting is Miss D. M. Dickinson, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., the Matron, and the Chairman is Lady Inman.

The speakers will include Miss Violet Taylor, S.R.N., S.C.M., (South Africa); Miss M. Barnet, S.R.N. (Leper Colony, Ruanda); Miss L. Topping, S.R.N., General Secretary of the movement; and the Rev. L. Mervyn Charles-Edwardes, Vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields.

Tea will be served at 4.30 p.m., and the afternoon promises to be very interesting and informative.

The Minister of Health has appointed Miss M. Marriott, Matron and Lady Superintendent of Nurses at the Middlesex Hospital, London, to the North West Metropolitan Region to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Miss E. Cockayne on her appointment as Chief Nursing Officer, Ministry of Health.

Nurses will be interested to learn that Sir Harold Gillies, Consultant Adviser, Ministry of Health and Scottish Department of Health, Civil Consultant and Plastic Surgeon at numerous hospitals, left Britain on April 24th, for a 3 weeks' tour of Yugoslavia under British Council auspices.

He is giving lectures and demonstrations and showing films in the field of plastic surgery at Belgrade and in provincial centres.

Sir Harold is already well known in Yugoslavia, where in 1946 he was leader of the U.N.R.R.A. Plastic Surgery Team.

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