

APPOINTMENT OF MATRON.

Miss Gwendolyn Embleton, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron of the Mildmay Mission Hospital, Austin Street, Bethnal Green, E. She received her training at St. Luke's Hospital, Bradford, and served as Ward Sister, Night Sister, Home Sister and Housekeeping Sister in St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, the General Hospital, Leicester, and the Emergency Hospital, Northallerton. Miss Embleton has also been Assistant Matron at the County Hospital, Shrewsbury, at the Montagu Hospital, Mextborough, and First Assistant Matron at the City General Hospital, Plymouth.

RECENT SUCCESSES FOR Q.A.I.M.N.S. NURSING OFFICERS.

Three nursing officers of Q.A.I.M.N.S., Sisters J. S. Brooks, J. C. Otway and F. M. Bowring, have recently completed a year's T.B. training at Baguley Sanatorium and have obtained the T.A. Certificate. All passed with distinction.

During the past two years eight nursing officers have obtained the London University Sister Tutor's Diploma—all eight passing successfully, six with honours.

Two nursing officers have completed four months' training at the Royal Eye Hospital and have received their certificates. To do this officers are seconded for four months, having first had two months' experience in an Eye Ward of a Military Hospital.

Selected officers of Q.A.I.M.N.S. are given these special opportunities for training during their service in order to fulfil the wide professional commitments required for nursing in the Army.

NEWS FROM CHINA.

It gave us great pleasure to receive again news of our dear Gladys Stephenson from the Methodist General Hospital, Hankow, Central China, for many years a staunch supporter of the policy and leadership of the late Ethel Gordon Fenwick, and a much valued Fellow of the British College of Nurses, Ltd.

"The Diamond Jubilee number of the B.J.N. arrived yesterday—I was thrilled with it. How inspiring it is to read all that early history and how thankful one is that whoever looks back to the early beginnings cannot fail to find that the early foundations were laid in God and His care for the welfare of His world.

In building up the Nursing profession in China we have been very conscious that foundations must be well and truly laid if a building that will endure is to rise therefrom.

For the past six months I've been conducting a Sister-Tutor course, which is urgently needed in China these days. It has been a great joy, as the nurses are so keen and eager and absorb everything they learn. Several of them are doing Sister-Tutor work in Church Missionary Society hospitals in Fukien, but needed the course which was not available last year. The usual post-graduate course centre being in an area seized by Communists has not been able to function. I enclose a report of our Nightingale service recently held.

A Nurses Festival in Hankow, May 12th, 1948.

Before the war, our School of Nursing was the only one in the city of Hankow in Central China, and across the river Yangtse in the capital city of Wuchang was one run by the Church General Hospital of the American Church Mission.

Since the end of the war, however, the Municipal Hospital has started a School of Nursing and several other hospitals have opened. The Japanese had a well-equipped military

hospital which was handed over to China after the surrender of the Japanese Army, also a provincial Hospital has started a School of Nursing. This very week the Superintendent of that hospital has asked for some Christian nurses to go and join his staff, as he wishes to have a Christian atmosphere in his hospital.

So last year on Florence Nightingale's birthday it was decided to hold a Nurses' Festival as a commemoration of the founder of modern nursing.

This year the number of local nurses able to participate was much larger. The Committee of the Central China branch of the Nurses' Association met to make arrangements for the celebration. May 12th fell on a Wednesday, and at 6 p.m. that evening, trucks and buses filled with nurses in uniform made their way to the Griffith John Church, their appearance causing much interest in the streets as they passed along.

To our surprise nearly four hundred nurses filled most of the church, a most inspiring sight, especially to the writer who recalled arriving in the year when the first three Chinese nurses gained their diplomas.

On the platform were many local dignitaries together with Dr. Francis Wei, the President of the Central China University and Bishop Gilman of the American Church Mission. A large picture of Florence Nightingale hung on the wall, also the red satin banner of the Nurses' Association of China. Miss Harriet Shen, our Methodist Hospital Sister Tutor gave a very spirited résumé of the life and work of Miss Nightingale.

Dr. Francis Wei's speech was excellent and greatly delighted the nurses. He emphasised the spiritual insight and ability displayed in the character of Miss Nightingale that made her life so rich in consequence to the health of mankind.

Miss Nightingale died in 1910 at the age of ninety, and Dr. Wei concluded his speech by wishing for all the nurses present that they might live to be ninety years old and have a life like hers, filled with fruitfulness and honour.

A Hankow choir of Chinese and Missionary voices gave some splendid music. Those who were present will not soon forget the beautiful rendering of 'Were you there when they crucified my Lord?' or the glorious finale of the Hallelujah chorus.

At the close was a candle-lighting ceremony. The writer was called to light the first candle and then the head nurse of each hospital represented there came to light their candles, from which the whole body of nurses came in procession to carry on the light and then they sung 'Jesus bid us shine with a clear pure light in this world of darkness.'

Surely an inspiration that we all need as adults as much as we did as children, for indeed the light of Christ and His saving grace for all men is the one clear true light in the world to-day, holding out hope for the future of this uncertain and unstable world."

SCHOOLS FOR POLISH RED CROSS NURSES.

In 1921, the Polish Red Cross opened its first two schools for nurses—one at Poznan and one at Warsaw—and these operated up to September, 1939. After the liberation, in 1945, the work of reconstructing these existing two began, and also the organisation of new schools. In October, 1946, the school at Poznan was reopened in a better and larger building, with accommodation for 100 boarders and a number of day-students. At present, 154 girls attend the school and obtain practical experience at the Poznan University Clinic.

In October, 1946, a new school was opened at Zabrze, in Lower Silesia. It has at present 127 students. The school at Lodz, opened a year ago, can accommodate 130 nurses and will shortly be extended to include a further 70.

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