

Nursing Echoes.

HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY has been pleased to approve the appointment of 161 nurses to be Queen's Nurses; 125 in England, 25 in Scotland, and 11 in Northern Ireland.

BY INVITATION to the National Council of Nurses, twelve nurses took part in the ceremonial pageant of the opening of the Thames Festival River Services by the Lord Mayor last week.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES has arranged for a talk by Madame de Montferrand on "Some Aspects of French Hospital Life from its early days up to the present time," at Guy's Hospital at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 31st, 1951. Madame de Montferrand is Vice-President of the Association of Nurses and Social Workers of the French Red Cross and has been nominated for her tour in England by Mademoiselle Clamageran, who is well known in this country. The lecture will be open to members of allied professions who may be interested.

HAVING SATISFIED HIMSELF that every possibility has been thoroughly and sympathetically considered, the Minister of Health considers that there is no justification for further delay in the conversion by the South West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board of the Kingston Victoria Hospital to meet gynaecological needs.

Since the debate in the House of Commons on January 30th, detailed discussions have taken place between the Minister and representatives of the hospital and of the Regional Board, as well as direct between the Board and the hospital. All the alternative proposals put forward have, however, on examination proved to be unworkable.

The Minister has, therefore, informed the Board that they may now proceed to the conversion of the Kingston Victoria Hospital and to the opening of the Claremont Hospital which has been specially adapted for the use of general practitioners.

MISS CLARE H. ALEXANDER, O.B.E., lately Matron of the London Hospital, was quietly married to Sir John Mann at the King's Chapel of the Savoy, London, on April 25th.

We learn that her successor at the London Hospital will be Miss G. Ceris Jones, Matron of the Westminster Hospital, London, to whom we offer our best wishes.

The Passing Bell.

Elizabeth Macdonald.

AFTER MANY MONTHS OF ILLNESS, patiently borne, Elizabeth Macdonald (*nee* Morgan), widow of the late Rev. D. Macdonald, passed to her rest on February 14th, 1951.

She received her training at Marylebone Infirmary, London, and after some administrative experience at the London Fever Hospital, was appointed Matron of the Northern Hospital, Winchmore Hill, London, N., an office she held with distinction for more than twenty years, and which she relinquished in 1917, on her marriage to the Rev. Duncan Macdonald, then Minister of the Established Church of Scotland, at Swinton, Berwickshire.

Elizabeth Macdonald was an able supporter of the Scheme, inaugurated in 1907, for State recognition of Fever Nurses, and ever an eager worker, she became the first Secretary of this progressive movement for the benefit of the sick; burning much midnight oil in this cause.

In 1914, in recognition of her splendid work, when she was deputed, in the first World War, to take office in an organising capacity at the Belgian Refugee Camp at Earls Court, she received from the late King Albert of the Belgians, the Queen Elisabeth Medal and one hundred pounds.

In her last and surprisingly legible letter, written only a few weeks before her death, alluding to her impaired sight, crumpled hand, and the loss of many dear friends, but always looking for the bright side, she remarks: "However, I'm very happy here, only lonely!" How sad for her who loved life and people!

It is a great consolation to know how grateful she was and how comforted by the care and kindness bestowed on her by the Matron and Staff of the beautiful Crail Nursing Home, Fife.

We who knew her feel deeply, that in the passing of Elizabeth Macdonald's bright and courageous soul, the world, is, indeed, the poorer.

A.S.B.



The late Elizabeth Macdonald and an inseparable companion

Major Elspeth Islay Brown

We deeply regret to announce the death on April 20th, 1951, at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Hants., of Major Elspeth Islay Brown, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

Major Brown trained at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow from January, 1921 to February, 1925. She joined Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service in November, 1935 and served in the Middle East, Belgium, Bermuda and at Home.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE on Maternity and Child Welfare will take place at Church House, Westminster, London, on June 27th, 28th and 29th, 1951.

Tickets for the Conference will cost £1.1.0 for the three days and can be obtained from the N.A.M.C.W. 5, Tavistock Place, London, W.C.1.

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