

News of our Members

WE WERE HAPPY to receive from a Fellow in South Africa some weeks ago, another of her interesting letters. She writes: "How this world of ours is changing! Out here we are all wondering what is going to happen next? And I think it must be the same in England.

"There seems to be no peace or rest anywhere, even the weather out here seems to have forgotten what is expected of it! We are well into Summer now—and there have been two hot days—with rain and snow and hail in between! I am not complaining of this moreover, for the cool weather is what I enjoy. . . . South Africa has been importing German women to train as nurses—some of these women already have medical training—some fully qualified—but all are going to train as nurses—strange, isn't it? I believe there are 200 of them. There are plenty of coloured women and natives who are offering themselves for training—for work amongst their own people of course. There is a great shortage of European probationers here, as everywhere else. I think perhaps they take them too young, and that matriculation is too high a standard. It is only Standard VII for natives and coloured people, and some of them do excellent work."

Matrons-in-Chief Entertain.

THE PRESENT MATRONS-IN-CHIEF of the three Services entertained past Matrons-in-Chief to Luncheon at the United Nursing Services Club on Tuesday, April 24th, 1951.

Past Matrons-in-Chief who accepted invitations were:

Navy: Dame Doris Beale, D.B.E., R.R.C.; Miss C. H. Franklin, C.B.E., R.R.C.

Army: Dame Ann Beadsmore-Smith, D.B.E., R.R.C.; Miss F. M. Hodgins, C.B.E., R.R.C.; Miss M. E. Medforth, C.B.E., R.R.C.; Miss D. M. Martin, C.B.E., R.R.C.; Dame Katharine Jones, D.B.E., R.R.C.; Dame Louisa Wilkinson, D.B.E., R.R.C.

Air Force: Dame Katharine C. Watt, D.B.E., R.R.C.; Dame Emily Blair, D.B.E., R.R.C.

Four past Matrons-in-Chief of the Navy, Army and Air Force were unable to be present.

The blessing was given by Miss J. K. Gillanders, R.R.C., K.H.N.S., Matron-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service.

Dame Helen W. Cargill, D.B.E., R.R.C., K.H.N.S., Matron-in-Chief Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service in welcoming the guests extended a special welcome, as one of the hostesses, to Miss J. K. Gillanders, R.R.C., K.H.N.S.

Brigadier Dame Anne Thomson, D.B.E., R.R.C., K.H.N.S., Matron-in-Chief and Director of Army Nursing Services gave a brief account of the year's events affecting the Services.

This most pleasant reunion was greatly enjoyed by guests and hostesses alike.

A greetings telegram was received from Dame Joanna Cruickshank, D.B.E., R.R.C., who was unfortunately unable to be present owing to ill-health.

Birmingham Accident Hospital.

Tenth Anniversary: Plaques Unveiled to Famous Citizens.

PLAQUES WERE UNVEILED in two of the wards of Birmingham Accident Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre on Saturday, March 31st, bearing the names of two famous citizens who have contributed greatly to the successful development of the Hospital. The occasion was the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Accident Hospital, and a monster birthday cake iced in many colours was cut by the Lady Mayoress (Mrs. Donald Paddon Smith) who unveiled one of the mural tablets, the Lord Mayor (Alderman A. Paddon Smith) unveiling the other. Members of the Board of Governors who administered the hospital when it was a voluntary organisation, and of the present House Committee, Alderman A. F. Bradbeer (Chairman, Group 25 Birmingham (Selly Oak) Hospital Management Committee), and the two men honoured, Dr. Arthur Stanley Barnes and Mr. Sydney Vernon were among those present.

Dr. Barnes, brother of the Bishop of Birmingham, was Pathologist at the Queen's Hospital in 1902-06, which was the forerunner of the Accident Hospital, was Dean of the Medical School, Birmingham, 1931-42, and has been president of a number of medical societies.

Mr. Vernon is Pro-Chancellor of Birmingham University, was formerly Borough Coroner for Smethwick (1924-46) and was Chairman of the Birmingham Hospitals Council, 1937-47.

Mr. H. N. Cartwright (Chairman of the House Committee, presided at the celebration, and Mr. W. Gissane, Ch.M. F.R.C.S., who has been responsible for much of the successful development of the Hospital's work, reviewed its history and functions.

"The Anatomy of Man and Other Animals."*

by
D. Stork Murray, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B.
Grace M. Jeffrey, B.Sc.

THE ANATOMY OF MAN AND OTHER ANIMALS is a most absorbing study in comparative anatomy. Truly we are fearfully and wonderfully made and amazing in our kinship with other animals, especially with those of more elementary structure. As the authors themselves point out, the book is written for "non-scientific" readers and therefore, the material is most attractively presented, but with undeniable authority.

On reading through the book one is struck by the patient research undertaken by the authors, in order to present such a wealth of instructive detail. For example, any similarity in bone structure found in animals and man, however seemingly minute and trivial, has been recorded, and fitted into its proper sphere in the scheme of evolution. Thus, we find progress from simplicity to complexity painstakingly recorded; from the amoeba, via the fleas, whales, lobsters, chimpanzees and tigers, etc., do we arrive at the construction of Man, through a process of increasing perfection. The chapter on the Vertebrate Skeletons is most enlightening, for the illustrations therein show very little difference between the vertebral columns of some animals and Man, except that the vertebral column of Man is upright.

The chapter too, on the Organs of Sensation makes fascinating reading, and one really cannot afford to miss such knowledge.

The book is nicely bound and well presented on good paper. It is lavishly illustrated with almost speaking pictures and the coloured plates are really beautiful. The book will be a valuable extra for Student Nurses with inquisitive and alert mentalities, and ought to be in their reference libraries.

G.M.H.

*Watts & Co., 5 & 6, Johnson's Court, Fleet Street, London. E.C.4. Price 18s. net.

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