



THE QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S ROYAL ARMY
NURSING CORPS ASSOCIATION

GAZETTE

Vol. 1 No. 11

August, 1952

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THE Q.A.R.A.N.C. ASSOCIATION GAZETTE

Patron:

HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY, *Colonel-in-Chief*, Q.A.R.A.N.C.

Vol. I. No. 11

AUGUST, 1952

Editorial

IT IS TOO soon to say that our financial circumstances warrant the continuation of this GAZETTE, but the monetary aspect is only a secondary obstacle, one more or less to be expected in the early years of such a publication, particularly in present-day conditions. The chief difficulty was that no Editor seemed to be forthcoming, and that situation is now bright and hopeful. One of our members—Miss M. C. Drummond-Hay—has offered to become the GAZETTE Editor for, at any rate, one year, beginning with the 1953 February number. We are all very grateful to her and will do our best to see that she is not overburdened with extraneous details. Miss Drummond-Hay must be well known to many Association members. She served in the last war as a Q.A. Reserve and is now at the Nightingale Home, St. Thomas's Hospital, Hydestile, Godalming.

A GAZETTE Committee is to be set up as originally intended, and that will ease matters considerably for the Editor. This Committee will decide upon the cover for Volume 2, using or adapting one or both of the winning designs in the recent competition (see item in "From Here and There").

It has been discovered that Association membership confers an unthought-of benefit—a lost property service—an entirely new feature. The Association was contacted by an hotel, where a wallet had been found containing several pounds and an Association Membership Card, the latter being the only clue to the owner and through which we were able to assist in the restoration of the lost property. Useful work!

An advertisement column is proposed as a facility to GAZETTE subscribers as a means of helping one another, and as one source of filthy lucre, without which the GAZETTE cannot survive. It is tried out in this number, the subject matter of the advertisements being authentic and free. Needless to say, this facility will not continue.

Reunion

THIS YEAR'S Reunion was held at the Hyde Park Hotel on Saturday, 7th June. In the Chairman's Annual Report it was labelled the fifth Reunion we have had. That, perhaps, was a little confusing. There has been one each year since 1946—the first two being arranged by A.M.D.4, then one got up by ex-Service Sisters, and the last four by the Association.

The function this year being part of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Golden Jubilee celebrations of Corps Week, it was expected a large number would attend. We were not disappointed—in fact, about 450 were present.

The Dowager Lady Amptill came as our guest. The Chairman of the Association and the Matron-in-Chief welcomed all as they poured in and the Central Committee members looked after everyone. It was particularly heartening to see so many other ranks of the Corps. They and everyone else appeared to have a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Our thanks are due to the Commandant and staff of the Depot for arranging the Pageant of Army Nurses composed of other ranks, who displayed the many uniforms worn by the Army Nursing Service since the time of Florence Nightingale to the present day, each one being correlated to its period in the history of Army Nursing by the commentator. This display enabled many members of the Association who had not been at the Depot, when it was presented earlier in the week, to see the pageant. It was very much appreciated, but drew forth friendly criticism from some of our oldest members as to the correct position for wearing the Princess Christian Army Nursing Service Reserve badge. We are to receive a copy of the orders for wearing the uniform as a result, and that will be a valuable addition to the material we are collecting for the Museum it is hoped to set up.

After the pageant the Chairman announced the name of the winner of the Association Cup (Captain M. M. Bridgwater), the first holder, and made the presentation amidst great applause. Dame Louisa was then presented with a bouquet of flowers in the Corps colours by "Florence Nightingale," on behalf of the Association, and Lady Amptill said a few kind words about the Chairman's work for the Association.

The party was a great success, though as usual a few old friends did not meet. It was impossible to see everyone, and there were so many old friends. It was a very representative gathering and there were many wonderful women present. One retired Q.A. was there who had joined Q.A.I.M.N.S. fifty years ago to the day—for her it was a real Golden Jubilee party.

The Hyde Park Hotel lends itself very well for such a big gathering. A delightful tea was served followed by ice-cream, and whilst the pageant was taking place the drawing room was cleared and a very welcome bar opened.

As a tribute to the Corps the flowers were specially chosen and arranged to correspond with Corps colours. They were much appreciated and admired by many members.

Lastly, a most important point must be mentioned, there was a surplus of about £20 after all expenses were paid.

Q.A.R.A.N.C. Corps Week

THE Q.A.R.A.N.C. Golden Jubilee celebration was a great success. It was a great disappointment when it was heard that Queen Mary could not honour the reception at Millbank, but those present were delighted when the Dowager Lady Amptill read out a message from Her Majesty :

“Queen Mary, who has been head of the Army Nursing Services for over twenty-five years, sends warm greetings to all past and present members of Queen Alexandra’s Royal Army Nursing Corps. Her Majesty takes great interest in the Corps, is very proud of its achievements, and knows that the tradition of service which has gained so high a standard will always be maintained in the Corps of which she is proud to be Colonel-in-Chief.

“Her Majesty sends greetings and good wishes to you all.”

The following letter had previously been received by the Matron-in-Chief :

“MARLBOROUGH HOUSE,
LONDON, S.W.1.

3rd June, 1952.

“Dear Dame Anne,

“I was very sorry to have to give you that telephone message to-day because I know that, although no surprise, it was nevertheless a disappointment to you all.

“It was with the greatest reluctance that Queen Mary decided not to come to the reception at Millbank next Friday afternoon, but Her Majesty said that she really does not feel quite up to it. Since her recent illness Queen Mary has had to take things very quietly because, although wonderfully better again, Her Majesty finds that she tires so easily. In fact, Her Majesty is not yet making any engagements of an official nature, but only paying quite private visits.

“Queen Mary commanded me to say that it is a very real sorrow to her not to be able to take part in joyful celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of the Army Nursing Services, with which she has been personally associated for so many years—for twenty-five years as President of Q.A.I.M.N.S. and now as the first Colonel-in-Chief of Q.A.R.A.N.C. But Her Majesty wishes me to assure you that her thoughts will be with you all during this memorable week.

Yours sincerely,

J. L. WICKHAM,
Private Secretary to H.M. Queen Mary.”

This further letter was received after the celebrations were over.

“MARLBOROUGH HOUSE,
LONDON, S.W.1.

11th June, 1952.

“Dear Dame Anne,

“Thank you very much for your letter, which I had the honour of laying before Queen Mary, together with the copy of the Service Paper of the Golden Jubilee Service, Q.A.I.M.N.S.—Q.A.R.A.N.C., on the 6th June. Her Majesty read your letter with great interest and was delighted to have such a good account of the success of the Jubilee celebrations last week. Queen Mary was also pleased to have the Service Paper, and commanded me to thank you for your kind thought of sending her a copy. It was a great sadness to Her Majesty not to be able to take part in any of the celebrations to mark fifty years of Q.A.I.M.N.S. and Q.A.R.A.N.C.

“I think Lady Amptill told you how deeply moved Queen Mary was by the lovely flowers you sent her on Friday.

Yours sincerely,

J. L. WICKHAM.

Private Secretary to H.M. Queen Mary.”

Among many other good wishes received there was a telegram from Major Baroness Van Hogendorp, Matron-in-Chief of the Royal Netherlands Army Nursing Service: “Best wishes for Jubilee.”

The Reunion and sporting events are described elsewhere. The weather was wonderfully kind throughout the week, and that added very considerably to the impressive ceremonial parade at the Depot on Wednesday, 4th June. The spectators were filled with admiration for the smart turn-out and the precision of the drill, on which the Corps were warmly congratulated by the Adjutant-General to the Forces, Sir John L. Crocker, C.G.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., who took the salute. In addressing those who took part in the parade, he assured them that the Q.A.R.A.N.C. had the admiration and gratitude of the entire Army—admiration for the courage and cheerfulness with which they undertook their duties in any part of the world, often in conditions of difficulty and even danger, gratitude for their unflinching services to the sick and wounded and of recent years also to the soldiers’ families.

A brief but beautifully produced pageant was also presented demonstrating the evolution of the Army Nurses’ uniform from Florence Nightingale to that of the present day.

There were many distinguished guests, one who should be particularly mentioned being Dame Ann Beadsmore Smith, the senior retired Matron-in-Chief, who thoroughly enjoyed her visit and fully appreciated the implications of the military status of the Nursing Service. The scene, particularly the parade, must have contrasted strangely with many of her memories. The visitors were entertained with generous hospitality by the Commandant and her staff, which intensified the pleasure and interest of a day to be remembered.

Army Sisters' Memorial Fund

AN ACCOUNT was given in the first issue of the GAZETTE of the three main ways whereby this Fund would be used to provide a memorial to those sisters who gave their lives during the war 1939-1945 and of the achievement of the first—a Memorial Plaque in the Q.A. Military Hospital Chapel at Millbank.

The second part was to have a Memorial Book of Army Nursing History written by Ian Hay, the cost being defrayed by the Fund. There have been many unforeseen and unavoidable delays in bringing this project to its logical conclusion, the publication of the book. An agreement has now been signed with Messrs. Cassells for publication within twelve months.

Interesting pictures or photographs illustrating incidents, general or individual, suitable for a History of the Army Nursing Services, are urgently required. There must be many such in the possession of members or their friends from which a selection representing all periods could be made and which would add to the value and interest of the book. Send them in now to the Secretary of the Fund at the Association and mark each one clearly on the reverse with name and address of owner, giving necessary explanation of subject of picture and, if possible, date taken. It is hoped that Her Majesty Queen Mary, the loved and revered Colonel-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps and Patron of the Association, will graciously consent to write a message for the book.

The third part of the memorial takes the form of grants to help sisters with war service in the expense of refresher courses or for similar purposes. The remaining moneys in the Fund, and any additional sums accruing from the sale of the book, will be devoted to this purpose. Apart from these three main purposes, donations have been given to the memorials in Rangoon and Singapore.

The Memorial Fund was very small—not much more than £3,000. The book has cost approximately one-third of the total, the memorial plaque and Unveiling Service, which large numbers of next-of-kin attended, about £350. Grants to date total £950; more will be available shortly and when money comes in from sale of book. Applications for grants should be made to the Secretary, Army Sisters' Memorial Fund, Q.A.R.A.N.C. Association Headquarters.

Congratulations

Bar to R.R.C.—Colonel M. B. E. Dyson (L19).

A.R.R.C. (2nd Class).—Major M. J. Scannell (L359), Capt. C. C. Cosh (L21), Capt. L. S. Lindfield (A1046), Capt. S. Rhys-Jones (A1352).

Awards for services in Korea and Japan: *O.B.E.*—T./Lieut.-Colonel P. Widger (L116). *R.R.C.*—Major J. Carson (L82).

From Here and There

Wallington, Surrey

"I am so sorry not to have been well enough to attend any of those most interesting functions in connection with the Jubilee Corps Week. These must have been sources of very great pleasure to innumerable members, past and present. As it happens, I was one of the staff of the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, when Q.A.I.M.N.S. was inaugurated and the late Miss Beatrice Jones was matron.

"How well I remember those days! the transition from the old régime. It all took place one night. We went off duty under the old regulations and came on duty next morning under the new. Oh dear! How trying it all was at first. There was much opposition from medical officers, wardmasters and orderlies. It was a very long time before things and people settled down. It was ever thus with upheavals and revolutions.

"This last week has been very fine for the Jubilee. I suppose we shall be told all about it in the GAZETTE. I am very sorry to have been out of it.

"ELIZABETH MABEL BICKERSDIKE (A685)."

B.M.H. Hamburg

Other ranks of Q.A.R.A.N.C. had the happy idea of sending out a greeting card for Q.A. Day with the Corps colours and crest and a photograph of their group inside.

Royal College of Nursing, Edinburgh—the Queen's Visit

Her Majesty arrived at 11 o'clock on Thursday, 26th June, 1952, and was greeted by Miss Jean Armstrong, Chairman of the Scottish Board of the Royal College of Nursing, and the Countess of Elgin and Kincardine, D.B.E., a Vice-President of the College.

The steps to the College door were lined by sixteen men and women members of the Sister Tutor class in uniform, conspicuous among whom was Lieut. Olga Brunton, Q.A.R.A.N.C., who came to the salute as Her Majesty passed.

Miss M. D. Stewart, Secretary of the Scottish Board, then welcomed the Queen to the College, and members of Council were presented in the hall. Her Majesty then passed into the Board Room, where other members of the Scottish Board, Branch representatives, and those connected with the Educational Fund Appeal also had the honour of being presented.

After signing the visitors' book and looking into the General Office, Her Majesty came upstairs to the Lecture Room, where a bouquet of mauve sweet-peas and pale pink roses from the Sister Tutor students was presented by Miss M. B. Muir, a trainee of the Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow. About fourteen students were in the classroom and library. These included Captain Jessie Monteath, Q.A.R.A.N.C., one of the first to whom Her Majesty spoke, asking about her service at home and overseas. Others who had the honour of a word with the Queen

included nurses from Scotland, England and Northern Ireland, as well as two from the Queen Elizabeth's Colonial Nursing Service, who came respectively from Tanganyika and the Gold Coast, and a nursing sister from the Seychelles Islands. Her Majesty seemed surprised and delighted to meet students from so far afield, and asked many interested questions, telling one student from Western Australia, who is returning via Canada and New Zealand, that she would have a lovely trip.

Some of the students' work was examined and the project method explained to Her Majesty, who also showed very great interest in the Doll's House, which illustrates the educational work of the College. This has been furnished by students of the McCrone Pre-Nursing School, Dunfermline, and kindly loaned by Lady Elgin for use in the Educational Fund Appeal.

As Her Majesty went downstairs again, she could be heard discussing the Seychelles Islands with Miss Armstrong, and an all too short but extremely pleasurable visit came to a close as the Queen again passed the guard of honour of Sister Tutor students.

Headquarters and Branches

A heartfelt plea comes to you. We give much of our time—and give it gladly—to work for the Association for you, but oh! the perplexity, the eyestrain, the mental acrobatics caused in our efforts to make out indecipherable signatures, to decide which you are of the several members with the same surname, even the same initials, to seek a clue of some sort as to where you are to be found, what the remittance you send is particularly for, or if it is a gift to the individual officer named on it.

You who feel that this plea may possibly—not probably, of course—be directed towards you, could you, would you, will you please help us by using your membership number, your initials with your surname (preferably at least one Christian name, and in that case can it be related to one of the initials)? Where you have the very slightest doubt of our capability of guessing what your signature stands for or making out the address (and our capability is limited), what about repeating them in block letters. The anticipation of such blessed relief fills us with expectant gratitude!

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS.

Military Hospital, Jamaica.

Q.A.R.A.N.C. Golden Jubilee Week was celebrated by the following events:

Sunday, 1st June. All ranks attended a service in the Garrison Church. The Rev. Davis, M.B.E., conducted the service and read our special Collect for those serving under the White Cross, and gave a short address on the work of the Corps in peace and war, and requested that special prayers be said during the week for the Corps.

Monday, 2nd June. The following guests dined in the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Officers' Mess: Brigadier and Mrs. Jackson (Area Commander), Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Ward (O.C., Military Hospital), Lieut.-

Colonel and Mrs. Barneby (O.C. Jamaica Battalion), Lieut.-Colonel and the Hon. Mrs. Johnson (O.C. Royal Welsh Fusiliers) and Captain Nolan (O.C., W.R.A.C.)

Thursday, 5th June. All ranks attended the Queen's Birthday Parade.

Friday, 6th June. A cocktail party was given in the Officers' Mess.

Saturday, 7th June. Corps Sports and Garden Party were held in the grounds of the Military Hospital, to which all the other ranks invited a friend each, and all ranks of the R.A.M.C. and W.R.A.C. The sports were a great success. Mrs. Ward kindly presented the prizes and the Commanding Officer lent his sword to cut the Golden Jubilee cake, which was a gift from the R.A.S.C. The cake weighed 25 lb. and was beautifully iced; the Corps badge in bronze icing was much admired. We had several gifts of flowers, and the W.R.A.C. presented the Corps with a vase made of local wood.

Among the guests were Miss Jones, Matron of the Tuberculosis Sanatorium; Miss Smith, Matron of University College Hospital, B.W.I., and Sister White, ex-Q.A.; and Mrs. Fletcher, Matron of the Nuttall Memorial Hospital.

Gazette Cover Competition

Two of the designs submitted were chosen by the special Committee as being very suitable by reason of their simplicity and adaptability. Both featured our grey and scarlet with the Association badge. The first prize (£5) winner, Miss M. S. Jump, suggested a topical picture to be changed as desired, or it could be omitted.

Miss I. D. Humfrey, second prize (£2 10s.), adapted present cover with addition of grey and omitted picture. A third design of badges and scrolls of "battle honours," submitted by Cpl. I. Brown, although not considered suitable for our particular purpose, received high commendation and a special third prize of £1.

We congratulate these three Association members. Their designs were exhibited at the Reunion and received much praise. We thank all members who sent in designs for their interest in the competition.

Book Review

PSYCHOLOGY, THE NURSE AND THE PATIENT. A *Nursing Mirror* Publication. 7s. 6d. By Doris M. Odium, M.A. (Oxon), B.A. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., Dip.Ed.

My opinion is that this is a very useful little book, easy to read and well worth the time given to it by any nurse, young or old. I have read it through with pleasure. It has a lot of useful information contained in a small space. There is so little in it that is technical that it could be read with equal profit by anybody. It is a pity that the price is not less.

FRANCIS I. CHESTERFIELD (A276).

Friends, Please Note

Births

- SANGER.—On 8th April, 1952, at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, to Olpha Ann (*née* Stewart), ex-Q.A.I.M.N.S./R., and Dr. C. Sanger—a son, Peter Richard, a brother for David. (A2782)
- WOTTON.—On 15th May, 1952, at Ashcombe House, Weston-super-Mare, to Betty (*née* Redfearn), ex-Q.A.I.M.N.S., wife of Bruce Wotton, L.D.S., R.C.S.Eng.—a son, Stephen Bruce, a brother for Simon Richard. (A903)
- PORTEOUS.—On 9th June, 1952, in New Zealand, to Mrs. Porteous (*née* Haywood), ex-Q.A.I.M.N.S./R.—a son. (A2706)

Marriages

- STEWART—BURKE.—On 7th June, 1952, at Plymouth. Surg. Lieut. J. D. Stewart, R.N., to Hilda Burke (Capt., Q.A.R.A.N.C.). (A1233)
- CLARK—LEESON.—On 24th May, 1952, at Oldenburg, B.A.O.R., Lieut. Anthony Clark to Joan Leeson (Lieut., Q.A.R.A.N.C.).
- MARSTON—SHAKESPEAR.—On 26th April, 1952, at Fayid, Egypt, Lieut. Philip L. Marston to Pamela M. C. Shakespear (Lieut., Q.A.R.A.N.C.).
- CRAN—HAWARD.—On 14th May, 1952, in London, Capt. I. M. Cran, R.A.M.C., to Lavinia Joan Haward (Lieut., Q.A.R.A.N.C.).

Other Ranks marriages as under :

- On 24th November, 1951, Edward Brookes to Cpl. P. Hopkins.
- On 26th December, 1951, Reginald Fore to Pte. M. Murphy.
- On 19th December, 1951, Kenneth Hague to Pte. M. Titheradge.
- On 18th December, 1951, James Young to Pte. W. Temple.
- On 2nd December, 1951, Frederick W. Besson to L./Cpl. A. Edwards.
- On 21st December, 1951, Frank Rodger to Pte. D. Cammack.
- On 29th December, 1951, David Noble to Pte. B. Bailey.
- On 29th December, 1951, David E. Williams to Pte. J. Jones.
- On 31st December, 1951, James Campbell to Pte. M. Hegarty.
- On 5th January, 1952, John Goodyear to Pte. J. Grant.
- On 5th January, 1952, Dennis Upton to Pte. M. Titheradge.
- On 4th January, 1952, J. E. Pugh to L./Cpl. M. Evans.
- On 22nd January, 1952, Emlyn J. Williams to Pte. P. Quirke.
- On 21st January, 1952, Richard Lumley to Pte. N. Lane.
- On 26th January, 1952, Ernest E. Holroyd to Cpl. J. Oliphant.
- On 24th December, 1951, Joseph C. Forsyth to Pte. P. Lonergan.
- On 19th January, 1952, Donald O. Morimer to Pte. P. Kane.
- On 9th February, 1952, Gordon P. Gibson to Pte. L. Bebe.
- On 9th February, 1952, George W. Alpress to Pte. E. Saunders.
- On 23rd February, 1952, Alexander W. Mennie to Pte. J. Joynes.
- On 16th February, 1952, John O. Davies to Pte. A. Lawson.
- On 16th February, 1952, Roy Hunt to L./Cpl. A. Scott.

On 1st March, 1952, Gordon J. Cordingley to Pte. I. Mallin.
 On 8th March, 1952, Reginald Harris to Pte. P. Scholey.
 On 8th March, 1952, Geoffrey Holmes to Pte. A. McGrandle.
 On 8th March, 1952, Gerald Lowe to Pte. V. McDowell.
 On 1st March, 1952, Ronald S. Lloyd to Pte. G. Jackson.
 On 1st March, 1952, John C. H. Borthwick to Pte. P. Moore.
 On 15th March, 1952, Frank W. Devoil to Pte. L. Soundie.
 On 15th February, 1952, Raymond F. Joshua to Pte. J. Roach.
 On 13th March, 1952, Peter D. Chatten to Pte. M. Hearne.
 On 8th March, 1952, Robert B. Harris to Pte. A. Bailey.
 On 8th March, 1952, Frederick J. Condon to Pte. I. Smith.
 On 22nd March, 1952, Norman Rigby to Pte. I. Chittock.
 On 29th March, 1952, John A. Martin to Pte. J. Moore-Coltman.
 On 5th April, 1952, Horace B. Booth to Pte. M. Peach.
 On 5th April, 1952, Brian Holland to Pte. E. Bell.
 On 12th April, 1952, Douglas P. Henry to Pte. J. Ramsdale.
 On 29th March, 1952, Joseph B. Bright to Pte. P. Hamilton-Fowle.
 On 26th April, 1952, Andrew T. Adams to Pte. G. Rose.
 On 8th April, 1952, Roland Lane to Pte. A. Tester.
 On 24th April, 1952, Royce Sea to Pte. B. Starbuck.
 On 26th April, 1952, Alfred C. Hayes to Pte. A. Bayliss.
 On 12th April, 1952, Roy Maunders to Pte. O. Childs.
 On 29th April, 1952, Alexander Ferguson to Pte. J. Laird.
 On 26th April, 1952, John Pink to L./Cpl. E. Ingram.
 On 30th April, 1952, Derek J. Frost to Pte. I. Dyer.
 On 3rd May, 1952, John A. Nicholls to Pte. S. Probert.
 On 22nd April, 1952, Norman Cunningham to Pte. M. Tatters.
 On 12th May, 1952, Cyril Wilkinson to Pte. B. Elliott.
 On 3rd May, 1952, Donald Sandland to Pte. S. Third.
 On 10th April, 1952, Joseph Oliphant to Pte. M. Holland.
 On 17th May, 1952, J. Snook to Pte. Y. Seagrave.
 On 3rd June, 1952, Victor C. Allen to Pte. R. Redpath.
 On 29th May, 1952, Kenneth Kendall to Pte. E. Carman.
 On 10th May, 1952, J. C. Holdford to Pte. E. Bahary.
 On 27th May, 1952, Nigel J. Wedgewood to Pte. D. Coleman.
 On 26th May, 1952, G. Graham to Pte. D. Chicken.
 On 2nd June, 1952, James H. Bell to Sgt. M. Foster.
 On 7th June, 1952, Donald Greedy to Pte. A. Eden-Smith.
 On 7th June, 1952, F. C. Butler to Pte. J. Mayne.
 On 21st June, 1952, J. Drett to Pte. J. Davies.

Deaths

We regretfully announce the following deaths :
 McCORMICK.—On 18th May, at Leeds, Miss Marion McCormick,
 R.R.C., late Matron, Q.A.I.M.N.S.
 WILLIAMS.—In October, 1951, at Folkestone, Miss M. E. Williams,
 ex-Q.A.I.M.N.S./R. (A2094).
 SPACKMAN.—On 21st June, 1952, at Ferndown, Dorset, Mrs. Annie
 Spackman (*née* Thornton), widow of Lieut.-Colonel H. Spack-

man, formerly of Princess Christian's Army Nursing Services Reserve and of the St. John Ambulance Association.

BARTON.—In April in New Zealand, Miss M. Barton, A.R.R.C., ex-Q.A.I.M.N.S.

BRIGGS.—Miss Alice E. Briggs, who was nominated by Florence Nightingale to train at R.V. Hospital, Netley, has died recently at the age of 95.

OBITUARY

WITHERS, Miss Agnes R., R.R.C., on 22nd February, 1952, late Matron, Queen Alexandra's Military Families Nursing Service.

She served in the First World War and was presented to Their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary. She received decorations from the King of the Hellenes and the King of Serbia, including the Croix de Misericorde, when attached to the 21st Stationary Hospital. She was also Mentioned in Despatches by General Sir G. F. Milne "for gallant distinguished services," and the commendation was signed by Mr. Churchill.

After retirement in 1926 she lived in Guildford and gave great personal service to St. John Ambulance work, was appointed a lady Divisional Superintendent, and was a Commandant in the V.A.D.

In Agnes Withers we have lost a woman whose whole life was dedicated to God and the service of helping other people. Her skill in the nursing profession had won its blue riband, but she was so selfless that few knew of the many distinctions she had received. She leaves a memory that will be long cherished.

CECILIA M. JOHNSON (A1066).

News from the Branches

Midland

The first Annual General Meeting was celebrated in May by an organized coach trip from Birmingham to Stourport-on-Severn. The party was accompanied by Miss M. A. Gannon, R.R.C., Chairman of the Branch, matron of the Maternity Hospital, Birmingham, also the Hon. Secretary, Miss W. Mountain, matron Orthopædic Hospital, Birmingham. On arrival at Stourport-on-Severn, afternoon tea was provided at the Vicarage by the Rev. and Mrs. J. S. Billings, an Association member. A trip on the River Severn by steamer was enjoyed by members despite bad weather conditions.

Scottish

The Glasgow members of the Scottish Branch held a highly successful social afternoon, including a Bring-and-Buy sale, on Saturday, 17th May. The attendance was very good and there was brisk buying and selling, so that it was possible to send £20 to Branch Headquarters in Edinburgh. The sale was followed by tea, bringing a pleasant afternoon to a close.

The Scottish Branch hope to commence their winter session by holding a Reunion Dinner in the Royal British Hotel, Edinburgh, on Saturday, 18th October, 1952.

New Zealand

Sixteen members were present at the quarterly reunion which was held on 5th April as a tea-party in the New Zealand Returned Army Nursing Sisters' Club. Mrs. C. A. Webster had secured a guest speaker, Mr. J. Money, who gave an interesting address on "Life in a P.O.W. Camp in Italy."

The Branch received a donation of a guinea from H.E. Lady Fryberg and 10s. from Miss Rosemary Ely, her lady-in-waiting, to express their interest in our Association. These ladies served together as V.A.Ds. in a military hospital during the 1914-18 War.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 14th June when the Secretary was able to report that the Branch had grown during the twelve months from the original twelve members to thirty-one. Mrs. J. Webster succeeds Mrs. L. M. Cliffe as Chairman, as the latter leaves in September for a trip home and will call at Headquarters when she is in London. Miss M. E. Wynne was appointed Vice-Chairman and Mrs. A. E. Hatfield remains Secretary-Treasurer.

Summer Holidays

SUMMER HOLIDAYS are here again, and I recall the weeks spent at Annecy in July last year, which left an indelible impression upon me.

The Lake of Annecy lies snugly among the foothills of the Alps in Haute Savoie, in one of the most beautiful parts of France. Wooded mountains rise steeply from the calm blue waters of the lake which shimmers in the hot summer sunshine. Steamers call hourly at all the lakeside villages, and to sail round the lake or to disembark and explore one or other of the villages until the steamer returned made a pleasant, lazy afternoon. The lake was not always calm and friendly, however. Very occasionally a sudden storm would blow up without warning and the sun-kissed waters would be turned into an angry sea and the surrounding country entirely shrouded in grey mist.

This is the countryside where Odette Churchill did a good deal of her wonderful work with the Resistance Movement in France, and where she was eventually arrested, and one realized what a tremendously difficult and hazardous task she had been set. Finding clearings on the hilltops and, where necessary, helping to make them in order to receive the supplies that were dropped by parachute, and the constant risk of discovery, must have been a great physical and mental strain. Here and there one came across memorials to members of the Resistance Movement, and it all made one realize how easy and comfortable, by comparison, was the work of, at least, this ex-T.A.N.S.

JEAN T. MITCHELL (A1652).

The Royal Red Cross

GEORGE, R.I.

GEORGE THE FIFTH, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India, to all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting !

WHEREAS Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, by a Warrant under Her Sign Manual dated the 23rd day of April, 1883, did institute, constitute and create a Decoration designated "The Royal Red Cross," to be awarded in recognition of special services rendered in nursing the sick and wounded of Our Army and Navy, and did make, ordain and establish certain rules and ordinances for the governance of the same, which rules and ordinances were subsequently amended by Warrants dated the 11th day of December, 1897, the 24th day of July, 1902, the 8th day of September, 1909, the 10th day of November, 1915, the 15th day of December, 1917, and the 30th day of April, 1918.

AND WHEREAS the said Warrants were consolidated and varied by a Warrant under Our Sign Manual dated the 25th day of October, 1920 :

AND WHEREAS We deem it expedient that Our said Warrant shall be amended ;

NOW THEREFORE We do hereby declare that the rules and ordinances contained in Our said Warrant dated the 25th day of October, 1920, shall be abrogated, cancelled and annulled, and We are pleased to make, ordain and establish the following rules and ordinances in substitution for the same, which shall from henceforth be inviolably observed and kept :

Firstly: It is ordained that :

(i) The Decoration shall be styled and designated "The Royal Red Cross," and shall be divided into two Classes

(ii) The First Class shall consist of a Cross, enamelled red, edged with gold, having on the arms thereof the words, Faith, Hope, Charity, with the date of the institution of the Decoration ; the centre having thereon in relief the Royal and Imperial Effigy ; and on the reverse thereof the Royal and Imperial Cipher and Crown shall be shown in relief on the centre ; and

(iii) The Second Class shall consist of a Cross of the same form and size as the First Class, but of frosted silver, with a Maltese Cross enamelled red not exceeding half its dimensions superimposed thereon, the centre having thereon in relief the Royal and Imperial Effigy ; and the reverse shall have inscribed on the arms thereof the words Faith, Hope, Charity, and the date of institution of the original Decoration, the centre having thereon in relief the Royal and Imperial Cipher and Crown.

Secondly: It is ordained that the Cross in either Class shall be attached to a dark blue ribband edged red, of one inch in width, tied in a bow and worn on the left shoulder.

Thirdly: It is ordained that the Decoration may be worn by the Queen Regnant, the Queen Consort, or the Queen Dowager of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas ; and that it shall be competent for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, to confer at Our Pleasure either class of the Decoration upon any Princesses of the Royal Family ; also upon the Queens or Princesses of Foreign Countries who may have specially exerted themselves in providing for the nursing of the sick and wounded of Foreign Armies, Navies and Air Forces.

Fourthly: It is ordained that the First Class of the Decoration may be conferred upon a fully trained Nurse who is a member of one of the officially recognized Nursing Services, and who has shown exceptional devotion and competency in the performance of actual nursing duties with Our Army or Our Air Force in the Field, or in Our Naval, Military, or Air Force Hospitals, or in an Auxiliary War Hospital, over a continuous and long period, or who has performed some very exceptional act of bravery and devotion at her post of duty ; and whose name has been brought to Our notice by Our Principal Secretary of State for War, Our First Lord of the Admiralty, or Our Principal Secretary of State for Air.

Fifthly: It is ordained that the Second Class of the Decoration may be conferred upon a fully trained Nurse, or an Assistant Nurse, Probationer, or Nursing Member of a Voluntary Aid Detachment, who belongs to one of the officially recognized Nursing Services, and who has shown special devotion and competency in the performance of actual nursing duties with Our Army or Our Air Force in the Field, or in Our Naval, Military, or Air Force Hospitals, or in an Auxiliary War Hospital, over a continuous and long period, or who has performed some very exceptional act of bravery and devotion at her post of duty ; and whose name has been brought to Our notice by Our Principal Secretary of State for War, Our First Lord of the Admiralty, or Our Principal Secretary of State for Air.

Sixthly: It is ordained that the number of awards in the First Class of the Decoration shall not exceed two per cent. of the total establishment of Nurses, and that the number of awards in the Second Class of the Decoration shall not exceed five per cent. of the total establishment of Nurses, the allotments to be proportionate to the numbers of each Nursing Service ; provided nevertheless, that it shall be competent for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, to make such additions as, under exceptional circumstances, We may deem fitting.

(To be continued)

Sports Notes

I. CORPS SPORTS

The first Q.A.R.A.N.C. Corps Sports were held in the Depot and Training Establishment, Q.A.R.A.N.C., as part of the Jubilee celebrations, on Wednesday, 4th June, 1952.

All units of the Home Commands, including Northern Ireland, were represented, and the competitors stayed at the Depot to enable them to take part in the heats, which were run off on the previous day.

Three beautiful silver cups have been presented to the Corps and will be competed for annually.

- (1) The Victor Ludorum Cup, presented by All Ranks, Depot and T.E., R.A.M.C., for the best all-round sportswoman.
- (2) Inter-Unit Relay Race Cup, presented by Regular Officers, Q.A.R.A.N.C.
- (3) Winner of the 220 yards Flat Race, presented by the W.Os. and Sergeants' Mess, Depot and T.E., R.A.M.C.

The standard of athletics in the track and field events was good, and the novelty events attracted a large number of entries. Results :

Best All-Round Sportswoman.—Pte. H. Irving, Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot.

220 Yards.—1st, Pte. H. Irving, Cambridge Military Hospital (Time : 25.4 secs.); 2nd, Pte. H. E. Cole, Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley.

100 Yards.—1st, Pte. H. Irving (Time : 12.4 secs.); 2nd, Pte. H. E. Cole.

Long Jump.—1st, Pte. L. R. Wilson, Cambridge Military Hospital (Length : 14 ft. 6½ in.); 2nd, Pte. S. B. Jones, "B" Recruit Coy., Depot and T.E., Q.A.R.A.N.C.

High Jump. 1st Pte. J. Gore, "B" Recruit Coy., Depot and T.E. (Height : 4 ft.); 2nd, Pte. H. M. Henstock, "B" Recruit Coy., Depot and T.E.

Inter-Unit Relay, 4 × 110.—1st, Cambridge Military Hospital (Time : 1 min. 9 secs.); 2nd, Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich.

The novelty events were won by the following :

Veterans' Race.—Major E. M. Turner, M.B.E. (Tidworth).

Egg and Spoon Race.—Pte. R. H. Wren (Wheatley).

Potato Race.—Sergt. B. M. Maasz (Woolwich).

Three-Legged Race.—Ptes. T. Williams and P. D. Stacey, "B" Recruit Coy., Depot.

Wheelbarrow Race.—W.O.I Brearley, W.R.A.C., and Sergt. M. Miller, Q.R.A.A.N.C.

Tug-of-War.—R.A.M.C. Sergeants versus The Rest was won by The Rest.

Lady Crocker kindly consented to present the prizes, and bouquets were presented to Lady Crocker and Brigadier Dame Anne Thomson, D.B.E., R.R.C., after the prize-giving.

II. MEDFORTH CUP TENNIS TOURNAMENT

This Tournament was also held as part of the Jubilee celebrations. The semi-finals and finals were played on Thursday, 5th June, 1952, at the Officers' Club, Aldershot, the preliminary rounds being played off on Tuesday, 3rd June, 1952.

This was the first time that All Ranks, Q.A.R.A.N.C., have been eligible for entry. There were twenty competitors representing all Home Commands and B.A.O.R. They were: Majors E. M. Turner, Radcliffe, G. M. Willoughby, H. Pratt; Capts. B. J. Tadman, B. Turner, J. Thomas, R. Clive, E. M. Scots; Lieuts. E. E. Carter, E. M. J. McCann, J. Melville, Y. M. Creaser, Sutherland, N. S. Mossop, A. R. Richardson; Sergt. B. M. Maasz, L./Cpls. M. Douglas, V. H. Lighton, and Pte. R. F. Strachan.

A much higher standard of play was reached this year and there were some excellent games played on both days.

In the semi-finals Major E. M. Turner beat Major G. M. Willoughby 6—4, 6—4, and Lieut. E. M. J. McCann beat L./Cpl. V. H. Lighton 6—2, 6—0.

The final between Major Turner and Lieut. McCann was won by Major Turner 6—2, 3—6, 7—5.

After this Tournament Miss M. E. Medforth, the donor, presented the cup to Major Turner and a powder compact to Lieut. McCann.

Major Turner and Lieut. McCann will represent the Corps at the Inter-Nursing Services Tennis Tournament to be held on July 18th.

III. R.A.M.C. SWIMMING GALA, Tuesday, 24th June, 1952.

Q.A.R.A.N.C. Officers' Championship, 66 2/3 yds. Free Style.—1st, Lieut. J. Sandeman, Colchester; 2nd, Lieut. J. P. Parker, Depot and T.E., Q.A.R.A.N.C.; 3rd, Lieut. M. E. Trotter, Depot and T.E., Q.A.R.A.N.C.

Q.A.R.A.N.C. Other Ranks' Championship, 66 2/3 yds. Free Style.—1st, Pte. J. A. Bell, No. 7 Coy., Catterick; 2nd, Pte. O. Ashworth, No. 10 Coy., Shorncliffe; 3rd, Pte. P. A. Taylor, No. 1 Coy., Aldershot.

IV. Q.A.R.A.N.C. ASSOCIATION CUP

This trophy is to be given annually to a serving officer or other rank nominated by Corps units as having contributed most to the sports prestige of the Corps during the preceding twelve months. A special Association Committee, which may not have any serving member on it, is to decide the holder each year from the nominations received.

The first holder of this Cup for 1952-1953 is Captain M. M. Bridgwater, Sports Officer at the Depot. The presentation was made by Dame Louisa Wilkinson at the Association Reunion on 7th June. Captain Bridgwater received a small scarlet leather frame containing a replica of the silver and enamel Association badge which forms the centrepiece of the cup plinth. There are seventeen small silver shields on the plinth for names of holders. It is hoped to produce a photo of the cup in the GAZETTE so that members may see what it is like.

V. ARMY INDIVIDUAL ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

These contests were held at Aldershot on 3rd and 4th June, 1952. Lieut. L. P. R. Marshall, Q.A.R.A.N.C., from B.A.O.R., won the High Jump in the women's events (4 ft. 8 in.) and gained the Field Events Cup.

VI. EASTERN COMMAND INTER-UNIT TENNIS TOURNAMENT

A Q.A.R.A.N.C. team from Woolwich played in this Tournament on the 9th July at Hounslow, and we are happy to tell you all that the W.R.A.C. Cup is now proudly housed at the Royal Herbert Hospital Q.A.R.A.N.C. Officers' Mess. The team consisted of Lieuts. E. M. Sutherland, J. M. Hall, Sergt. B. M. Maasz and Pte. P. Tindale.

VII. INTER-SERVICES TENNIS TOURNAMENT

The Inter-Services Tennis Tournament was played at P.M.R.A.F. Hospital, Halton, on Friday, 18th July, 1952.

Q.A.R.N.N.S.—Miss J. M. Townsend, Miss J. R. Emslie.

P.M.R.A.F.N.S.—Flight Officer N. E. Jones, Flying Officer A. M. Moens.

Q.A.R.A.N.C.—Major E. M. Fulner, M.B.E., Lieut. J. McCan.

First Match—Q.A.R.N.N.S. v. Q.A.R.A.N.C. Q.A.R.N.N.S. won 8—6, 6—1.

Second Match—Q.A.R.A.N.C. v. P.M.R.A.F.N.S. Q.A.R.A.N.C. won 6—2, 6—2.

Third Match—Q.A.R.N.N.S. v. P.M.R.A.F.N.S. Q.A.R.N.N.S. won 1—6, 6—1, 6—3.

This is the fourth successive year Q.A.R.N.N.S. have won the cup, and we congratulate them, but would like to see Q.A.R.A.N.C. the winners next year.

Vienna

VIENNA—the very name conjures up the magical atmosphere of Strauss waltzes and names of famous composers, many of whom lived and died in the city. It is an interesting place to be stationed as there are many beautiful and historical places and things to see—churches, palaces, universities, art-galleries and museums with wonderful collections and pictures. There are also opportunities for seeing first-class performances of opera and hearing distinguished orchestras, as Vienna still retains its international reputation for music and opera.

The great drawback for the intending visitor is that, being in the Russian-occupied Zone of Austria, special passes are needed to enter the Zone, Vienna, and to travel on the international highways. It is most important that the visitor, whether travelling on duty or for pleasure, is armed with the special grey pass, as without it—or if it is incorrectly filled in—they will be turned off the train or from the frontier by the Russian soldiers who examine all passes at the frontier check-posts.

The climate is similar to England, except that it is somewhat hotter in summer and colder in winter. There are the same trees, flowers, shrubs and birds. Spring is particularly lovely with masses of wild and cultivated flowers, blossoming fruit trees, lilac, laburnum, and magnolia against a background of fresh green leaves. Tropical kit is worn in summer, and in winter there may be heavy snow. The houses have central heating, so winter is not uncomfortable. It is cooler in the provinces of Carinthia and Styria in the British Zone. Here the winters are very severe, with bitter cold winds and deep snow for many weeks on end.

Vienna is built on the banks of the River Danube—rarely as blue as the song maintains—overlooking the vast Central European plain, which stretches for miles in the distance. It is surrounded on three sides by hills which are part of the last spur of the Alps. The hills are thickly wooded and are a favourite retreat for the people who in summer flock in huge numbers to spend long days in the open air by every available means of transport or on foot. They are the famous Viennese Woods immortalized by Johann Strauss in his lovely waltz.

Like most cities, there are contrasts of beauty and squalor. Many of the buildings are of yellow stone and very old. Charming glimpses of quaint courtyards and squares with beautiful wrought iron gateways and balconies and shady trees can be seen. The atmosphere of Vienna is old world—the Austrians always seem to be sighing nostalgically for their past and the days of the beloved Emperor Franz-Josef, who ruled for so many years and only died in 1916. Many of the people wear some version of national dress. The women and girls favour a bright dirndl skirt with white blouse and apron and coloured bodice, or the grey costume with green facings. The men and boys wear a grey suit with similar facings and, in the summer, leather trousers—“lederhosen” are very popular. They last for years and are most hard wearing, but appear somewhat unhygienic to us. The more formal and correct national dress is often elaborately and beautifully embroidered. Each district has its own traditional costume.

Flats are more common than houses, and there are many huge blocks put up by the Council for their workers. The modern ones are very well planned, the older ones look attractive but lack up-to-date amenities. Many of the streets are lined with trees, and there are numerous parks and flower gardens which make a pleasant setting for open-air cafés and large public buildings. A large number of the streets are cobbled, except in the centre of the city. These cobbles are very hard on motor vehicles. Transport is of interest as, while there are a few fairly modern buses and coaches, the bulk of the city traffic is carried by the Underground and trams. Both systems are period pieces. The Underground rattles above and below ground with antiquated coaches, and the trams are not much better, three or four single-decker coaches joined together which bash along giving way to no one. It is convenient to travel on them as the same ticket can be used as long as one goes in the same direction and travels

within the hour. The docile queues that we are so accustomed to at home have no place in Vienna—everyone just pushes firmly without waiting for descending passengers. The chaos is indescribable—not unlike that of an unruly football crowd.

The inner part of the city is surrounded by The Ring—a continuous street which forms a complete circle, where it joins one of the quays on the Danube Canal. Many important cultural and monumental buildings face on to it, giving it a very distinctive character, and inside is the fashionable part of the city. The shops are attractively dressed, but not so grand as the large stores at home. Clothes and shoes are expensive and rather poor quality, but leather work, fancy jewellery, and petit-point embroidery are lovely; also bronze work, for which Vienna is famous, the shops being full of delightful little models and figures. There is no rationing of sweets, so the confectioners have lavish displays of luscious chocolates and candies, and all the cafés serve delicious cream ices and pastries—but these, too, cost a lot of money.

The city is under Four-Power International Control, each ally taking the chair at the Four-Power meetings, and providing the International Guard in turn. The change-over takes place once a month in the centre of the city outside the Palace of Justice. It is interesting to watch and compare the different styles of the troops on parade.

Among notable buildings to see is St. Stephen's Cathedral, one of the oldest and most famous churches in Austria. It is built in Gothic style, with a beautiful high-pointed tower and steep roof covered with ornamental tiles. The cathedral was wantonly damaged by the Germans in 1945 and the roof and tower severely burnt by the huge fires that were started. The heavy bell called Pummerin, which hung there, crashed to the ground and was completely smashed. This bell had special associations for the people of Austria, as it was made from metal from a captured Turkish cannon, and only rung on special occasions. Repairs were begun as soon as the war was over. Much rebuilding has been done and paid for by voluntary contributions. The new bell was cast in one of the outer provinces and brought into Vienna and handed over to the Mayor in an official ceremony on 26th April. Representatives of the different provinces wearing their national dress accompanied the bell, bands played, and crowds lined the streets, throwing flowers on to the trailer carrying the huge 20-ton bell. There was great rejoicing and music and dancing in the open air followed the ceremony. The bell is at present in the square near the cathedral, and big crowds are flocking to see it before it is hung in the tower.

The Rathaus (Town Hall) is another fine Gothic building facing a wide tree-lined square. One gets a clear view of its carved walls and spire against a background of blue sky. There are two or three very good restaurants in the old cellars where excellent meals are served.

The large Opera House was badly damaged during the war and is still under repair. Much of the outside appears to be finished and the

scaffolding is removed so that the elaborate gilt and coloured frescoes can be seen. There is still much work to be done inside, and it will not be ready for performances for several years yet. It does not take a wide stretch of imagination to picture the gorgeous and glittering scene on the occasion of a gala performance when it is in use again. At present opera is staged by the State Opera Company in two smaller theatres—one the Theater-an der-Wien, which was built in 1797, and has seen so many world-famous artists and composers (Beethoven's *Fidelio* was first performed here in 1805), and the Volksoper, a more recent building, where the lighter operas are staged.

The Prater is the best known park in Vienna. It is a large natural park about five to six miles square and at one time was the Emperor's deer park. Inside are open-air cafés, restaurants, a sports ground, race-course, golf-course, open-air swimming baths and the Fun Fair, with every sort of mechanical device to bump, rock or terrify for a very cheap price, and stalls selling trinkets, sweets, etc., and booths where one can try one's skill or luck. Here, too, is the Ferris Wheel so familiar to everyone who saw the film "The Third Man." It is well worth a ride, as the view from the top of the whole city below is superb. All the war damage has been tidied and repaired and gardens and car-parks laid out. The summer season starts at Easter, and it is nearly always crowded with a gay, noisy crowd thoroughly enjoying themselves.

In the suburbs is the district of Hietzing, where the palace of Schonbrunn stands. It was the former country palace of the Emperor. This suburb is in the British sector, and here are the barracks, messes, hospital, and most married quarters. Schonbrunn is a vast building of yellow stucco, many windows and green shutters overlooking great courtyards with graceful outside staircases curving down from the public first-floor rooms. In summer open-air performances of light opera are given here, and it is quite enchanting to see the ballet chorus gliding through the doors and down the stairs to the strains of a Strauss waltz. Inside the palace there are hundreds of rooms, some splendidly decorated in very elaborate style. The lavishly decorated "Millionen-Zimmer," or million room—called such as it is reputed to have cost a million Schillings to decorate, is the most outstanding. The Coach House, or "Wagen-Zimmer," is fascinating with a wonderful collection of coaches, sleighs elaborately panelled and upholstered, and gorgeous embroidered and jewelled saddle-cloths, spurs, saddles and plumed bridles.

The palace and zoo are in a large formal park with severely trimmed trees and hedges bordering straight paths and avenues. In front is a huge flower-bed intricately planted out with bright coloured flowers and looking like an Axminster carpet from a distance. Facing the palace on a slight rise in the ground is the "Gloriette," a high colonnade, from the roof of which there is a marvellous view of the whole estate and hills beyond.

While being stationed in Vienna I have seen performances of well-known operas and heard the famous orchestras and Boys' Choir. The

staging, costumes and productions of opera are done on a grand scale and are quite magnificent, and the artists' voices wonderful. The Vienna Symphony Orchestra and Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra are the most important orchestras, and they give concerts during the summer and winter seasons in one or other of the large or small music salons in the beautifully decorated Concert House or Music Hall. The accoustics are perfect, and not a sound is heard from the audience until the end of the musical passage, when they applaud loudly and vociferously. The Vienna Boys' Choir was originally endowed by wealthy merchants. It is run by Roman Catholic priests and supported by money raised by fees from concerts given by the choir. The boys are chosen from all classes—their voice being the only condition of entry. They are intensely proud of being a member of the choir. Everything is free—they are clothed, boarded and given general education in addition to voice and musical training. When on tour they are accompanied by tutors so that their education is not interrupted. In Vienna the boys sing in the churches on Sunday and religious festivals, and take part in choral works and opera choruses. The boys wear a uniform sailor suit and round cap, with "Vienna Singing Boy" printed on the cap-band. They are allowed out with parents and friends on Sundays when the service is over. It is amusing to see them rushing off excitedly as soon as they can get away.

I hope that these brief descriptions will be of interest to readers of the GAZETTE who are not fortunate enough to be able to visit Vienna. Obviously I have left out many things that might well have been included, but it is impossible to give a comprehensive account of such a city in a short article.

MARGARET B. KNEEBONE (L121).

The Growth of a C.C.S. (T.A.)

AFTER SERVING throughout the 1939-45 war in the T.A.N.S., I decided to join the Q.A.R.A.N.C. (T.A.) when it was formed. In October, 1950, I was accepted and posted as matron with the rank of Major, to the 18 (N.) C.C.S. (T.A.) and requested to present myself at Harewood Barracks, Leeds, at my earliest convenience to meet the O.C. unit.

I duly presented myself and was welcomed by the O.C., who informed me that two newly appointed nursing officers were also expected—they, too, had served throughout the war. We were the first women to be appointed to the unit and, having been introduced to our fellow officers in the R.A.M.C. (T.A.), we spent a pleasant evening touring the barracks—they seemed like a maze, and I still get lost in them.

Our introduction to the Officers' Mess was left to the last, and that is where we got a jolt. It had not been used as a Mess since 1939, and it looked rather like a very neglected station waiting-room. The Colonel looked at me with a twinkle in his eye and said, "Now that we have women in our midst we get this place in order, and it will be your job." A Mess meeting was called and a Mess Committee elected. I became Mess Secretary. For weeks we, the Committee, were surrounded by patterns of materials for curtains, etc., and colour cards from which we chose the colour scheme for walls and doors. Eventually, in early January, 1951, the redecorating and refurnishing was completed, except for the carpets, which we could not afford. The T.A. Association then came to our aid and we have to thank them for floor-covering.

The Mess silver, which had been stored in the bank, was insured and taken out and placed in the Mess, with one of the nursing officers put in charge of it and held responsible for cleaning of same—a task she has done religiously and well.

February 17th, 1951, was the great day. The Mess was officially opened by a cocktail party and we were honoured by the presence of the Lord Mayor of Leeds and his family and many distinguished guests. Honorary members of the Mess were much in evidence and a good time was had by all.

Having so to speak got the whole unit together socially, we now got down to a training programme for R.A.M.C. other ranks. A model ward was organized and set up to help us in training the men, and this proved a great asset. Assisted by my two nursing officers, lectures were given on Mondays and Wednesdays from January to July, 1951, to the other ranks who were desirous of being up-graded. We went through the Training Manual syllabus of lectures. These lectures were very well attended, the men showed great interest, and our efforts were not in vain as a good percentage of men passed the examinations and were up-graded.

By May, 1951, our strength had increased to four nursing officers and two Q.A.R.A.N.C. (T.A.) other ranks; the latter were given lectures and were successful in passing the Course of Instruction examinations. In July, four nursing officers and the two other ranks attended courses at the Q.A.R.A.N.C. Depot, Hindhead. All thoroughly enjoyed the course and benefited by the instructions and lectures given.

I attended the Senior Course in August and was most impressed by the organization and certainly found out that there were many changes in the Q.A.R.A.N.C. I had not realized that it was possible for them to function so efficiently as an independent Corps. I cannot speak too highly of the instructors.

Gradually since last July the strength of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. (T.A.) has increased and we can now boast of fourteen Q.A.R.A.N.C. (T.A.) officers and three Q.A.R.A.N.C. (T.A.) other ranks, and we have two potential nursing officers on our books.

Once a month we have the C.O.'s parade, which is quite an event, because we parade in uniform and are inspected. After the parade we

have a lecture. One, on 7th April, was given by Mr. Mortimer Shaw, of Bradford, on the treatment of burns and plastic surgery. It was most instructive and much appreciated by all the unit.

I hope I have not given the impression that being a member of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. (T.A.) means all work and no play, because the social side is well organized by the O.C. and Mess Committee. Since the official opening of the Mess we have had a Mess Dinner in October, 1951. Lieut.-Colonel J. A. Dunn, Q.A.R.A.N.C., then A.D.A.N.S., Northern Command, honoured us with her presence. The Annual Dinner Dance was held in January, 1952, which proved to be a great success.

Our training programmes continue throughout the year and we look forward to our weekly meetings. We find being members of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. (T.A.) worth while.

I have not any claims to literary genius, but perhaps what I have written will give an insight into the functions of the Q.A.R.A.N.C. (T.A.) and maybe encourage those interested to join us either as nursing officers or Q.A.R.A.N.C. (T.A.) other ranks.

ETHEL L. COLMAN-TURNER (A483).

Retirements and Resignations

1952

January—Lieut. E. M. J. Bickford (*née* Appleton).

February—Lieuts. W. A. Emerson (*née* Bacon), A. R. Hughes (*née* Kelly), W. O. O'Brien (*née* Rodgers).

March—Major D. Knight, Capt. M. A. Lowery, Lieuts. M. V. McCormack, D. G. Kelly, J. R. Sismery (*née* Sparkes), E. S. Stewart (*née* Evans), N. E. Buck (*née* Slack), H. M. Jenkins (*née* Arthur), M. A. Magee (*née* Chivers), J. Ruthven-Murry (*née* Farmer), S. M. Patterson (*née* Darry), M. H. Niven (*née* Rochester), M. B. Holland (*née* Glifford), J. R. Dearden, S. P. Giles (*née* Wash).

April—Major M. J. Thomson, Capt. G. Jenkins, Lieuts. M. J. Thomas, M. E. Godfrey, B. J. Wright, W. A. Varnell, K. Kerr, P. S. Main, D. C. Butters, Capts. A. B. Laurensen, M. P. Green (*née* Young), M. P. Nolan (*née* Cashin), Lieuts. S. A. Jones (*née* Gillies-Reyburn), L. Whiteley (*née* Sullivan), D. M. McErlean (*née* Coutrey).

May—Lieut.-Colonel H. M. Parker, Capt. L. Hanlon, Lieuts. D. G. Kelly, P. M. C. Marston (*née* Shakespear), I. M. Roy (*née* Osbourne), P. J. McGarry (*née* Ibbett).

June—Capts. E. Maher, C. G. Griffiths, G. Thomas, J. D. Trestrail (*née* Miles), Lieuts. O. E. Wilds, P. C. Keegan, J. M. H. Reed, D. A. Harper, S. D. Sloane, L. Cassidy (*née* Watts), L. J. Cran (*née* Haward), J. Y. Currell (*née* Harrison), J. E. Clark (*née* Leeson), J. M. Pollit (*née* Carey), J. M. Mitchell (*née* Brown).

Promotions

1952

April—Captain to Major: E. R. Barnet, 6th; V. K. Jones, 8th; H. C. Thayer, 21st; M. C. Hilson, 24th. Lieut. to Captain: V. Jones, 11th; C. E. Griffin, 12th; J. M. Steer, 20th; M. Lewis, 21st.

May—Major to Lieut.-Colonel: I. B. Hazlett, 1st. Captain to Major: H. P. K. Brett, A.R.R.C., 29th. Lieut. to Captain: S. Taylor, 4th.

June—Captain to Major: M. Ryan, 6th; M. L. Holt, 21st; E. J. Millington, 25th. Lieut. to Captain: O. M. Lowe, 11th; N. Riding, 11th; K. E. P. Fox, 18th; N. J. K. Hilton, 27th.

OTHER RANKS

1951

December—Lance-Corporal to Corporal: M. Foster, 31st.

1952

January—Corporal to Sergeant: J. Millar, 8th. Lance-Corporal to Corporal: J. Sigsworth, 5th; R. Dudley, 21st. Private to Corporal: I. Fox, 21st; J. Brant, 25th. Private to Lance-Corporal: D. Bradfield, 5th; S. Davidson, 5th; J. Welton, 5th; M. Woods, 30th; J. Hook, 5th; S. Hurford, 11th.

February—Sergeant to Staff-Sergeant: G. Bailey, 18th. Lance-Corporal to Corporal: S. Rudd, 18th. Private to Corporal: V. Montgomery, 16th. Private to Lance-Corporal: J. Godden, 1st; E. Scott, 1st; M. Hosker, 4th; E. Searle, 6th; J. Smith, 8th.

March—Lance-Corporal to Corporal: M. Pereella, 1st; E. Nuttall, 3rd; D. Bradfield, 20th; S. Davidson, 20th. Private to Corporal: M. Chatten, 11th. Private to Lance-Corporal: M. Grindle, 1st; G. Storrer, 1st; N. Owen, 11th.

April—Private to Lance-Corporal: M. Irving.

May—Corporal to Sergeant: M. Cameron, 14th; S. Rudd, 14th; J. Sigsworth, 14th. Lance-Corporal to Corporal: B. Spreckley, 6th. Private to Lance-Corporal: J. Conway, 14th; P. Whitlam, 14th; M. Rae, 21st; J. Bingham-Hall, 6th; A. Reed, 5th; M. Quinn, 5th.

June—Lance-Corporal to Corporal: J. Douglas, 3rd; M. Barlow, 3rd. Private to Lance-Corporal: P. Hamilton, 3rd; H. Henstock, 6th.

“Two Little Converts”

(A DESERT STORY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR)

WE CALLED them Lizzie and “Not Lizzie”; they were found in the Libyan Desert by our orderlies, starved almost to death. Lizzie was the first to be brought in; she looked about twelve years old, but we had no means of finding out anything about her. We only knew that the Senussi were trekking away from Mersa Matruh as rapidly as possible and that if any fell by the wayside, from starvation or exhaustion, they were left to die.

So it was that Lizzie was found and brought into our Camp Hospital. She was in a pitiful condition and then, a few days later, another child was found, and she was just a little heap of “rags and bones.” We put them in a tent together, fed them carefully and clothed them in fresh garments. They were very frightened at first, but soon the kindness showered on them by everyone concerned completely drove away their fears and they became quietly contented little children—needless to say, to us, extremely interesting.

Lizzie grew fat and strong in the six weeks we had her, but “Not Lizzie,” a weird little elf of a child, just sat on her heels in front of their tent and took but slight notice of anything.

The weeks passed and we received orders to leave Mersa Matruh, but what was to be done with these Arab children? They would starve again if we let them return to the desert, which was unthinkable; a bright thought came to me and I remembered hearing that in far-off Alexandria there was a Roman Catholic convent. To this convent I went one day when in Alexandria on business for the Mess. I saw the Rev. Mother Superior and begged her to take in the two little Senussi girls and to care for them. On my written promise, and on that of my Commanding Officer, that we would never try to reclaim the children, the Rev. Mother said she would gladly accept the custody of them. I was greatly relieved and, on returning to Mersa Matruh, asked the first captain going down to Alexandria to take the children in his ship, and himself deliver them safely to the convent, and this he very kindly did.

Some weeks later I was able to go out to the convent to see the two children. Lizzie came into the room, a shy, dark child, dressed as a European, but friendly with her few English words. Little “Not Lizzie” would have nothing to say to me, but she, too, looked well cared for.

My two little Arab waifs were now well on the way to becoming good Catholics, and were being brought up as useful members of a gentle, hospitable religious house. I should love to see those two Arabs now and to know what they are doing.

INA D. HUMFREY (A87)

Postings From and Reversions to Home Establishment, January 1st to March 31st, 1952

To B.A.O.R.

Major M. Downing
Major I. I. Scruton
Major H. W. Slater
Capt. M. Wall
Lieut. K. Ault
Lieut. F. W. Bades
Lieut. M. M. Morrison
Lieut. E. O'Loan

To West Africa

Major B. M. Robertson
Lieut. S. G. B. Comer
Lieut. K. M. Godber
Lieut. K. L. Reid
Lieut. B. P. Sampson
Lieut. D. E. Setterfield
Lieut. M. Waddington
Lieut. B. D. Cotton

To BETFOR

Lieut. F. P. Kirkham
Lieut. L. B. Wieks

To Japan

Capt. K. Knowles
Capt. P. M. Stenning
Lieut. E. M. Hobson
Lieut. E. Sanderson

To East Africa

Lieut. A. E. Gregory
Lieut. M. J. Inglis

No Other Rank Q.A.R.A.N.C. postings overseas this quarter.

From FARELF

Lieut.-Colonel G. M. Luxton
Major K. E. Phillips
Major E. H. Owen
Major R. C. Davies
Major E. E. M. Saunders
Major L. E. Miller
Capt. B. Moynahan
Capt. B. Turner
Capt. M. M. Walshe
Capt. M. F. Stephenson
Capt. E. E. Englefield
Capt. F. McDonald
Capt. E. M. Coppack
Capt. M. Jones
Capt. H. White
Capt. V. Lane
Lieut. V. Jones
Lieut. E. E. Carter
Lieut. M. M. Wright
Lieut. I. T. McGuinness

To B.T.A.

Major M. J. McMahon
Capt. N. Dentith
Lieut. M. Hilliard
Lieut. S. Holgate
Lieut. J. I. Syred
Lieut. L. Vaughan

To M.E.L.F.

Major E. G. B. Butterworth
Major C. T. De Rouffignac
Major Heyman
Capt. J. McSweeney
Capt. J. E. N. Godfrey
Capt. E. M. C. Rowston
Capt. E. Quinton
Lieut. V. M. Densham
Lieut. J. Honan
Lieut. B. M. Horne
Lieut. J. Knight
Lieut. V. H. Rooke
Lieut. I. F. M. Smith
Lieut. S. M. Trusson

To FARELF

Capt. M. M. Mount
Lieut. V. Cameron
Lieut. A. E. Critcher
Lieut. N. E. Leonard
Lieut. M. I. Monkley
Lieut. K. Rudd
Lieut. B. D. Waller
Lieut. P. Warwick
Lieut. B. J. Waring

From Jamaica

Major M. A. G. Condon

From Japan

Lieut.-Colonel P. Widge
Major J. Carson
Capt. E. Hebden
Lieut. J. C. McLaren
Lieut. R. M. Brown
Lieut. J. S. Hutchinson
Lieut. M. V. Rattew
Lieut. M. M. Urpeth
Lieut. E. B. Welch

From M.E.L.F.

Lieut.-Colonel D. O. Wakeham
Major M. E. Mallett
Major E. M. Gaunt
Major A. G. Pegg
Capt. O. M. Lowe
Capt. M. M. Daly

Capt. E. A. Thompson
 Capt. M. Noonan
 Capt. M. M. Heaney
 Capt. E. J. Carter
 Capt. E. M. Latchford
 Capt. P. Moran
 Capt. W. Polson
 Capt. M. J. Symonds
 Capt. A. O'Garra
 Capt. M. Clarke
 Capt. M. G. Davidson

Capt. M. Murphy
 Lieut. M. J. C. Hartgill
 Lieut. G. M. O'Sullivan
 Lieut. M. R. Scrobie
 Lieut. J. O. E. Moriarty
 Lieut. J. Heath

From East Africa

Capt. A. M. Balmforth
 Capt. C. B. Fraser

PERSONAL

Advertisements should be sent to Assistant Editor, with cheque/postal order, by 1st of month previous to month of publication—*i.e.*, by 1st January, April, July and October. Membership number must be quoted.

The provisional charge is 1s. for first twelve words, each extra word 1½d. A number can be given if it is not desired to publish name and address and correspondence is to come through Association, in which case there will be an extra charge of 1s.

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WINDSOR. Member ready to act as guide to anyone visiting. Apply through Association. 23.

ACCOMMODATION urgently wanted within easy reach London, S.W.1, for young S.R.N. unable to nurse, doing daily secretarial work at Association. Can pay about 30s. p.w.

Corrections, Vol. 1, No. 10

- Page 8. Headings INCOME and EXPENDITURE should be reversed.
 Page 20. Australia, third para., 3rd line. For "years" read "time."
 Page 3. Social Activities, 1st line. For "fourth" read "sixth," and 2nd line, for "fifth" read "seventh."

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Personal advertisements page under discussion. See Editorial and page 27.

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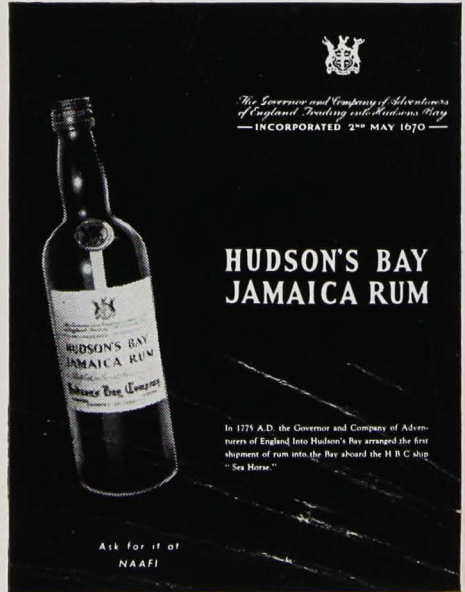
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