

1916

ROTHESAY LADIES PASS EX-AMINATIONS

In First Aid and Home Nursing

The call for Canadian girls to go overseas as assistant nurses in the English hospitals had given a great impetus to the work of the St. John Ambulance Association. A very successful class in first aid, at Rothesay, under Dr. Peters, has completed the course. Dr. Logie giving a thorough examination to ten young ladies and all passed satisfactorily. They are: Sophie Robertson, Madge Robertson, Alice McKeen, Edith M. Schofield, Agnes McKeen, Jean Daniel, Muriel Robertson, Dorothy Purdy, Mabel Thomson, Annie Fairweather.

Following this class came an interesting course of instruction in home nursing by Mrs. William C. Allison and examined by Dr. Peters. The class of nine members all qualified for certificates was: Jean Daniel, Edith Schofield, Annie Puddington, Annie M. Storm, Sophie Robertson, Annie Fairweather, Dorothy Purdy, Edith Cudlip, Mabel Thomson.

July, 1917

In addition to Miss Mary Lucretia Domville, and Miss Frances Clara MacKeen, professional nurses, who have been serving in the hospitals of France since the early days of the war, Rothesay is soon to have four more young ladies nursing overseas. They are Misses Jean Daniel, Dorothy Purdy, Anna MacKeen and Dorothea MacKeen, members of the V. A. D., who are among the nine, chosen from the volunteers who responded to the appeal made by the St. John Ambulance Association for probationary nurses to assist the trained nurses in naval and military hospitals across the ocean. These girls have been most active along patriotic lines, ever since the war began and the good wishes and prayers of the community will go with them in this new and wider field of service.

July, 1917

V.A.D.'S ARE SOON GOING OVERSEAS

Presentations at Two Farewell Gatherings on Wednesday

At a farewell to the V.A.D.'s soon going overseas, at the Soldiers' Club, Wednesday evening, presentations were made and addresses given to the departing members.

Mayor Hayes was in the chair and Mrs. Hayes was on the platform. Major Curren, M.O. of the unit, was present and made an address congratulating the order on the excellent work being done and expressing his thanks for the services of the V.A.D.

Officers present the young ladies going overseas with maple leaves done in silver. The party was called to the platform and the badges were presented by Miss Alice Morgan, Miss Madeline de Soyres, Miss Austin and Miss K. Sturdee, who also presented a beautiful bouquet to Mrs. Kuhring on behalf of the members of the her unit. The Mayor expressed the official greetings of the City of St. John.

Mrs. Kuhring in reply on behalf of those going overseas, thanked those who had arranged the meeting and those who had spoken so nicely.

During the evening Miss Valde Fenton sang and the quartette from the Happy Eighth gave several selections. Miss Anderson accompanied the singers on the piano. A vote of thanks was passed unanimously to Captain McVey for the music provided.

During the absence of Mrs. Kuhring, Miss Alice Morton will lead the V.A.D., representing Miss Payson as nursing officer in the military hospital. She will receive the names of those ready to work. Miss Mary MacLaren represents Miss J.L. Day in the convalescent home. A few words were spoken by both of these ladies.

Miss Eileen Coughlan, of the public library staff, one of the members going with Mrs. Kuhring, was presented by her library associates with a handsome traveling bag.



1921



PORT OF ST. JOHN, N.B. – At the Red Cross nursery in the Dominion immigration building, West St. John, on Sunday, the V.A.D.'s and Red Cross nurses were kept for several hours.

A scene in the Government immigration headquarters at St. John, N.B. The children belong to a quota of 200 sturdy Hebridean farmers just arrived on Canadian soil. The nurse on duty is seen in the picture, is Miss Tremain, who nursed H.M. the king when he met with a serious accident in France in 1916. Since leaving the army this nurse has devoted her life to the comfort and care of children arriving at the ports of Quebec and St. John, N.B.



July, 1917: The Hospice of the Knights of St. John. The VAD and its work.

The official title of this organization is The Voluntary Aid Detachment of the Saint John Ambulance brigade, and it is coming to occupy quite a place of its own in the military hospital work in this city, being accepted and approved by Military Headquarters and the O.C. and atones at the Convalescent Homes and Military Hospital. It is formed for the most part of those young women who having taken certificates for the First Aid and House Nursing courses of the St. John Ambulance Association desire to put their services, under qualified officers, at the disposal of the authorities responsible for the sick and the wounded in the war for the nursing duties and at the same time to thus fit themselves for more important work that may come in the later days of the war... For more, see Ledger page 5.



The Day of Landing

Looking after mothers and children. Rest and refreshments before starting on their long train journey.

Everyone who has traveled from home to a foreign country knows the feelings that are engendered by the reception that one is given upon setting foot for the first time upon the shores of a foreign land. The memory of the day of landing persists whether it be in the mind of the traveler for business, for pleasure or of the immigrant who has cut, most likely forever, the ties which bound him to home. Those who have talked with people who have traveled know how frequent are the stories of the courtesy or discourtesy of some Customs Official, of the bareness or beauty of the shores upon which the landing was made, of the condition of the landing stages, reception sheds, custom offices and other equipment incidental to the reception of travelers from foreign lands.

During the war the Canadian Red Cross Society, ever active in all forms of service, established Seaport Nurseries at Saint John, Halifax and Quebec, to receive the wives and children of Canadian soldiers. As the arrivals began to diminish the nurseries at Halifax and Quebec were closed. That at St. John continued longer than the others, and it was at that port that observations by the Canadian Government Immigration Officials were made of the good work that the Canadian Red Cross was doing and this information, conveyed to the Immigration to the Canadian Red Cross Society that it might render a most useful service for Canada if it would continue the nurseries on behalf of the wives and children of new citizens of Canada arriving at the three ports already named to give them a favorable first impression Canada.

Ever ready to accept the responsibility of useful service and feeling alive to its obligations under the peace-time treaty to act as an auxiliary to the government for the "improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering" the Canadian Red Cross Society undertook the operation of the nurseries and a business agreement between it and the government was entered into.

Under this agreement the Canadian Government provides building accommodation and equipment for the nurseries, at Halifax, St. John, and Quebec, and the Red Cross Society, as a voluntary auxiliary, provides the staff and all the expenses of conducting the nurseries and has full charge of the work that is done in them. . .

JULY 1917

THE V. A. D. AND ITS WORK

Members Do Not Assume the Position of Professional Nurses

The official title of this organization is The Voluntary Aid Detachment, of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and it is coming to occupy quite a place of its own in the Military Headquarters and the O. C. and matrons at the Convalescent Homes and Military Hospital. It is formed for the most part of those young women who having taken certificates for the First Aid and Home Nursing courses of St. John Ambulance Association desire to put their services, under qualified officers, at the disposal of the authorities responsible for the sick and the wounded in the war, for the minor nursing duties and at the same time thus fit themselves for more important work that may come in the later days of the war.

This is a department of the old Order of St. John of Jerusalem, which in the days of the Crusades gave their services "for suffering humanity without remuneration" and which in its modern form is at work in the British Isles and in all the overseas dominions.

The work the order has undertaken at this time entails a strain on its membership which calls for occasional assistance at the great hospital centres in the old country from its overseas branches and so one party of volunteers went over last autumn and another is likely to be sent in the near future. The sphere of the order in this city has been to take over the simpler duties of the nursing sisters in the Hospital, thus leaving them free to give more personal and individual care to patients than ordinary hospital routine permits, ensuring not merely the welfare and recovery, of possible, of the case which is the responsibility of the hospital authorities, but greater comfort and ease during its progress and those attentions which patients away from their own homes can rarely command in any institution.

In the diet kitchen the V. A. D. prepare hospital food in a way to tempt fitful appetites and the indulging of individual tastes and the little home daintiness added to meals and trays adds greatly to the comfort of all concerned.

Members of the order work under an officer who supplies any assistance acceptable to the matron of the hospital and send in as helpers only those who prove themselves fitted for the work. These members occupy a similar position to that of probationary nurses in general hospitals and every additional period of work renders these "pupil nurses" more helpful in the hospitals and more prepared for any emergency that may arise and call for their assistance at home or abroad. The order therefore appreciates the unusual opportunities expected by the Military Hospital and Convalescent Home to enable them to secure this training and the ready and valuable instruction so kindly given their members by the professional nurses on duty there, members of the V. A. D.

Members of the V. A. D. never assume the position of professional nurses and only serve under their direction, observing the strictest discipline. Some show special taken for the work of the sick room, and these are given more and more technical work as they progress, but the responsibilities of those in authority and of the professional nurses is never given over in our hospitals to V. A. D. workers.

Visitors who go often to the hospital, and see the busy members work, while commending most highly their skill and devotion, realize they are simply doing that "woman's work which is never done," and rejoice that the sick entrusted to the City of St. John in this war time should enjoy this additional care and attention, but every now and then, some one hearing of this work, injures its advantage in the public mind, either by stating that "untrained nurses" in its ranks are giving a service to the patients which lacks what is their due, and is risky to their welfare," or else, that "the V. A. D.'s are doing in their selfishness devotion, work which professional nurses are neglecting, although paid to do it."

The V. A. D. goes on its way as cheerfully as possible, knowing both these standpoints are wrong – accepting with some little pride and gratification the position of usefulness and approval accorded them by the doctors and nursing sisters in the hospital and the military authorities, and happy in the added comfort and well being their order provides and their own efforts carry out from day to day for those upon whom the Empire is so greatly depending in these days, in their time of illness and absence from home, and for those who have come back to us bearing the marks of struggle in which they have been engaged on our behalf on the battle front. When continued demand is being made upon trained help of all kinds and promises to increase as more and more invalided men return from overseas hospitals, it is indeed a patriotic and practical system that encourages and assists the members of this devoted order to give not only present aid, but serious attention to effort and training for increased efficiency in a noble and most worthy service.

AUGUST 17, 1917: MRS.
KUHRING TELLS OF ENGLISH
VISIT
V.A.D.'S From Canada Are Greatly
Appreciated

THE FOOD SUPPLIES

The Funeral of Lieut. Jarvis McLellan and the interest of Dr. and Mrs. MacLaren in All Home People.

"Inasmuch as I went to England especially in the interests of the V.A.D.'s, it was with great satisfaction that I received shortly before sailing this last message from Devonshire House; that everything in praise and no faults could be said of Canada's contribution to the V.A.D. service. This appreciation evidently delighted Mrs. Kuhring very greatly because in the course of a short conversation with her this morning she referred more than once to the admirable work of the V.A.D. It may be said that while in England Mrs. Kuhring kept close touch with members of the association which went over under her champeronage and was satisfied as to the manner in which they are received and as to their accommodation.

In addition to the members of her own party she constantly came in contact with others from Canada and from New Brunswick in her visits to the hospital where she spent a good deal of time, making a special study of hospital equipment for special cases. Mrs. Kuhring met the last party of V.A.D.'S from Canada to arrive in England, her daughter being one of the number. These girls who were under the care of Mrs. Ashmead-Wilson of Ottawa, who has a special introduction to Devonshire House officials, were singularly fortunate, as they were present during a visit of Queen Mary to Devonshire House, which is the centre of all V.A.D. work, and were among those presented to Her Majesty.

Criticism of those in authority is not unheard – it is British privilege to grouch; but with this criticism is a willingness to do whatever is asked. The workingman is giving up his Sunday and his half-holidays. The man of wealth is giving of his means and giving lavishly; the women are doing what they are told to do and not what they want to do. Only sons are given to the service, and old family names are becoming extinct, and there is no deep or bitter complaint, only a feeling that all this sacrifice must not be in vain. There are giants in control of public affairs and they are urged to their utmost by the spirit, the unconquerable spirit of the people," said Mrs. Kuhring, adding, "tag days are held every day and are ably supported; the feeling is that what you can give from your pocket is so small when compared with what men overseas are giving that these appeals which involve only the sacrifice of something that is not probably essential, should be supported.

This statement brought the conversation naturally to the question of food. "the situation is quite in control," said Mrs. Kuhring, "but there is more food only because the distribution is more equal. The system perfected by Lord Rhondda, who gave his life for the cause as surely as did any soldier on the field, is being ably carried out. One is deeply impressed with the spirit of national co-operation in regard to the food question. The greatest inconvenience was not that there was no food, but that the routine of the food supply was interrupted and the people suffered from inability to handle the new foods they were suddenly called upon to utilize. This was particularly hard on the soldiers until sufficient food was stored to allow of their supplies proceeding as normal times."

V.A.D. GRATUITES

War gratuities are being given to all women who served as V.A.D.'s military hospitals, according to instructions received by the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The gratuity will be at a rate of ten pounds for one year of service and an additional gratuity of ten shillings for each additional month will be paid to members who served as V.A.D.'s in military ships and were in receipt of army pay. Among the St. John V.A.D.'s who served overseas and will be entitled to the gratuity are Miss Doris Deveber, Miss K. Schofield, Miss Eileen Coughlan, Miss Betty Adams, Miss Marion Flagor, Miss Alice Wilson, Mrs. W. L. Caldow, Miss Dorothy Purdy, Miss MacKean, Miss Dorothea McKean, Mrs. Colhurst, Miss Jean Daniel, Miss L. Hill, Mrs. Harold Wood. Some of those who are eligible have already received the gratuity.

[. . .]

HUN POISON SHELL CAUSED THE DEATH OF ALBERT DEVINE

Lad Who Spent Two Years in Military Hospitals Passed Away in This City on Wednesday Last.

One victim of the unfair methods of fighting used by the Hun passed away at the Military Hospital here on Wednesday last after an illness of over two years caused by poisoned shells,

Trumpeter Albert DeVine aged 23 years was the man who lost his life because the Germans would not fight fair, and after suffering from April 23, 1915, from wounds in the back and abdomen, which all the medical science of both the old and new worlds failed to cure, passed away on July 4th.

Trumpeter DeVine, Venlisted in the 8th Battery under Major Anderson had only spent two months on the firing line when he received the wound, which eventually caused his death. He was riding on his horse when a shell burst; the horse and rider were both wounded. Trumpeter DeVine was hit near the spine by pieces of the shell. Horse and rider were both thrown to the ground and the rider was kicked in the abdomen. The wounded hero was picked up and taken to the dressing station and from there to hospital.

The wounds refused to heal and he was sent to England. Here it was found that the reason they would not, was because of some subtle poison on which had evidently been introduced into the system by the shell, which caused the wound. While in England he was treated by the best physicians in the country who could do nothing for him. Finally it was decided to send him home and about eight months ago he became an inmate of the Military Hospital. He was of a cheerful disposition and was a general favorite with all the nurses and attendants who did all they could to make the time pass pleasantly for him as they realized that it was only a question of time until he would be beyond the need of care. Of late he had been able to go around the city in a wheel chair and the V.A.D. nurses did everything they could to make the days pass agreeably for him.

The deceased was a native of Bathurst but enlisted in Woodstock. The body was taken to Bathurst on Thursday for burial. He is survived by a wife in England.

V.A.D. NURSES ARRIVE IN ENGLAND

JANUARY 1918

Also 9th Siege Battery From St. John.

OTTAWA, Jan. 2. – It is officially announced, through the chief press censor's office, that the following troops have arrived safely in England: -

Canadian officers training corps candidates for army commission.

Royal Flying corps, officers.

Draft Yorksire Regiment from Bermuda.

Drafts: artillery, horse, siege and field from St. John, N.B., Montreal, Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

Signallers from Ottawa.

Forestry from Montreal, Levis, Toronto, Winnipeg and Prince Albert.

Medical corps from Ontario.

Canadian nursing sisters of V.A.D. nurses from St. John and Toronto.

Newfoundland troops, Imperial recruits, details.

(St. John contributed seven V.A.D. members, viz., Miss Dorothy Purdy, Rothesay; Miss Kit. Schofield, Miss Marion Flagor, Miss Alice Wilson, Miss Betty Adams, and Miss Dorothy MacKean. Mrs. G. A. Kuhring was in charge of the party.)

APRIL 2, 1918: FOR NURSES WHO HAVE FALLEN IN THE WAR Memorial Service in St. Paul's Cathedral

On April 10th, there was held in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, a memorial service for those nurses who have fallen in the war. The order of the service sent to the Globe by Mrs. Kuhring indicates a very impressive and beautiful tribute to those women who to the number of three hundred and forty-seven have died in the cause of humanity. [. . .] In looking over the list of names and the order of the service to which they are attached, the fact that of the entire list, one hundred and fifty-one on this roll of honour belonged to Voluntary Aid Detachments is significant of the spirit of the Empire. [. . .] Of those belonging to the Canadian Army Medical, the list of died is small, seven Sisters only. These are L.A. Davis, Sarah Ellen Garbutt, Jessie B. Jaggard, Ida L. Kealey, Mary Frances Eliza Monroe, Etta Sparks, and Adruenna Allen Tupper. One name bears beside it the word EX-ECUTED, and it is that of Edith Cavell. A note saying that the offerings from this service were to be given to the British Red Cross and the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem shows that after them their good works do continue . . .

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