

of Arms put on their coronets, "the trumpets shall sound, and by a Signal given, the great Guns at the Tower shall be shot off." The Acclamation ceasing, the Archbishop steps back and says:—

"God crown you with a Crown of Glory and Righteousness, that by the ministry of this our benediction, having a right faith and manifold fruit of good works, you may obtain the crown of an everlasting kingdom by the gift of Him whose kingdom endureth for ever."

Immediately after the crowning the sovereign is presented with the Holy Bible, the Archbishop saying:—

"The most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is Wisdom; This is the Royal Law; These are the lively Oracles of God."

The Queen now rises (remember she has been sitting facing the Altar, thus with her back to the congregation), turns to the west, and accompanied by the Archbishop and supporting Bishops, the great Officers of State, the Lords bearing the swords and others, proceeds to the raised throne facing the Altar and there she is lifted up into it by the Archbishop and Bishops and other Peers and solemnly enthroned or placed therein.

Historically, this is the moment when the sovereign enters into and takes possession of her kingdom.

There, Anointed, Crowned and Enthroned, she is the undoubted Queen in the sight of all and is ready to receive the homage of the Princes and Peers. Originally, each Peer did homage in person but in 1902 the precedent was set which has since been followed, that only the senior Peer of each degree should kneel before the sovereign and do the actual homage, the rest of the Peers merely kneeling in their places and repeating the words after their respective leaders.

When the homage is ended the drums beat and the trumpets sound and all the people shout:—

"God save Queen Elizabeth. Long live Queen Elizabeth. May the Queen live for ever."

In the case of a King Regnant, the Queen's Coronation immediately follows, otherwise the Service of Holy Communion is resumed at the Offertory.

After the final blessing the choir sing a solemn *Te Deum* and the procession then returns to the West Door of the Abbey."

346,000 Babies expected in June and September Quarters.

THE QUARTERLY ESTIMATE of the numbers of live births to be expected in England and Wales as a whole during the six months April-September, 1953, was announced recently by the Registrar-General.

The final estimate for the June quarter is 178,000 and the provisional estimate for the September quarter 168,000, giving an estimated total of 346,000 babies in the six months.

There were 174,089 live births registered in the June quarter, 1952, and 167,938 in the September quarter of that year—a total of 342,027.

Fewer Deaths in Childbirth

A new low record for the number of mothers dying in childbirth has again been set up. The provisional rate for maternal mortality (excluding abortion) per thousand live and stillbirths in England and Wales in 1952 is 0.59.

"Many factors have played their part in establishing new low records for maternal and infant mortality. They include better standards of living, better housing, welfare foods, new drugs and medical techniques and better midwifery. But there is another factor and that is the new attitude and new understanding of parents who have come to realise that by the responsible use of the skill and care made available to them their children may reap the benefit of good health in future years."—Miss Pat Hornsby-Smith.

What to Read

Memoirs and Biography.

- "Paganini." Renée de Saussine.
- "Mr. Nelson's Ladies." Showell Styles.

Fiction.

- "The Wandering Eye." Hugh Massingham.
- "Landscape in Sunlight." Elizabeth Fair.
- "Great Benefits." Hilary Seton.
- "Kingfishers Catch Fire." Rumer Godden.
- "A Place to Stand." Ann Bridge.
- "Guard Your Daughters." Diana Tutton.
- "Hellebore the Clown." Maurice Rowdon.


Miscellaneous.

- "The Voyage of *Waltzing Matilda*." Philip Davenport.

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