

delight! How glad she was to be home again was demonstrated in all her happy movements, and we were glad with her.

Everywhere on the river was the happiest medley of discord and noises. Sirens screamed from ships and tugs; bells pealed from cathedrals and churches; guns boomed a Royal Salute and cheers and shouts of welcome were roared out from the crowds to Her Majesty and the Duke. "Welcome home."

When, at last, our radiant Queen set foot again on British soil at Westminster Pier, she was really and truly at home, in the land of her birth and childhood years. All her glorious voyaging was behind her; six months of hard work to a gruelling time-table well and nobly done. What a wonderful Queen, and oh, what a royal task so graciously and meticulously accomplished.

Bigger crowds along the streets and Mall cheered the Royal Family homewards to the Palace. Dainty little Princess Anne—impish and happy—was a great attraction and the people adored her. The Queen was left in no doubt that we had missed her and were glad to have her back once more. London is a lonely place when the Royal Standard does not fly aloft from Buckingham Palace. But it is a warm, exciting and scintillating capital in which anything can happen, when Royalty is at home.

So now we leave our Queen in the happiness and seclusion of Balmoral for a well-earned respite from pressing affairs of State.

May she live long, happily and gloriously, long to reign over us.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

G. M. H.

## World Health Day, April, 1954.

### The Nurse of Tomorrow.

By Daisy C. Bridges.

NURSING IS A PROFESSION which exists to give service. Its growth has continued side by side with the development and the improvement of social conditions, for nursing is a world-wide social activity.

Epidemics have devastated vast areas, sometimes whole countries: nurses have helped in preventing their spread, and the growth of the profession has gained in impetus according to the results obtained. The most distressing social conditions are always found in war-devastated regions: public health nursing has made rapid progress as nurses have organised themselves to allay these conditions.

The stage of development of nursing varies greatly therefore in different parts of the world and in different cultures. To some extent it is dependent on the stage of development which a country has reached in knowledge of medical science and of public health.

The members of the first Expert Committee on Nursing of the W.H.O. rightly pointed out: "*In countries where medicine is highly developed and nursing is not, the health status of the people does not reflect the advanced stage of medicine. Nursing is essential to give life to the health programme.*" This is equally true in any part of the world, whatever stage the health programme has reached, for nursing is an essential part of a national health service.

The years during which most of us have been practising nursing are probably some of the most momentous in the history of the profession, not only because of the things which have been done and which are already past history, but also because of the legacy of things to be done which we

have inherited and for which future generations of nurses will hold us responsible.

The first half of the twentieth century has been an era of discovery and of rich accomplishment in medicine, in surgery, in anaesthesia, in antibiotics, and all of this has affected our patients and revolutionised their treatments.

Nursing has not stood apart from these momentous happenings. Nurses have contributed towards the march of science through legislation, through better educational opportunities, through an attempt to achieve the highest standard of nursing service in all fields, through the exchange of nurses between countries so that they benefit from each other's knowledge and experience.

They have taken steps to ensure that their own professional work and the care of their patients for which they are intimately responsible, is in line with the latest trends and advances in medicine.

This century has also been an era of professional accomplishment, both national and international.

In nursing this has shown itself in the rapid growth throughout the world of national organisations of nurses which have infused the whole profession with strength and vitality. This has led to the gradual recognition by nations and states of their responsibility for the preparation of nurses and the active interest of educational authorities in such preparation.

Nurses have themselves realised that in order to meet their growing responsibilities they must be prepared and equipped for administration and teaching and for many spheres of leadership. They must advance their knowledge and understanding in the social implications of sickness, mental as well as physical. They must always be conscious of their obligations in the work of prevention. They have worked towards an international standard of nursing service and of nursing education and have achieved the adoption of a Code of Nursing Ethics pertaining to both.

In all of these movements the International Council of Nurses has been in the vanguard, for the foundation of this Council in 1899 was the culminating professional event of a century which had seen the rise of nursing from something which was considered "suitable employment for women of the lowest class," to an honourable and scientific profession for persons of education and culture.

The principal objectives of the International Council of Nurses were expressed in the original constitution and have remained unchanged throughout its long history. They are, quite simply, to help in maintaining the highest standards of nursing service in those countries which are in membership, and to help countries not yet in membership to achieve these standards so that they may join.

The establishment of nursing schools, the advent of the "trained nurse," the growth of her work in various directions and its division into specialised branches, all serving the different needs of the community, a growing insistence on educational reform—these were the legacies of the nineteenth century to the twentieth.

As a consequence of the rise and progress of nursing, the need for more and better nurses and their obligations to the community, there came also a need for professional organisation and this is the direction in which the nursing profession in most countries is travelling.

The International Council of Nurses, which for more than fifty years has linked the nurses of the world together in a federation of friendship, has accepted the challenge of its founders. For nurses, individually and collectively, can make their work of the utmost possible usefulness only if they are supported by a professional association, and though the work of nurses may differ, the principles of organisation are the same in every country.

The experience of the past has proved that the best results in nursing can be obtained only if the profession is united in its demands for reform, for by union alone can the necessary strength be obtained.

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