

## St. George-in-the-East Hospital, Wapping, London, E.

### Presentation of Awards and Hospital Certificates.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD, 1955, once again brought the happy annual event, when nurses feeling justly proud of their Training-School—St. George-in-the-East Hospital—received the prizes, awards and certificates which they had won. The Presentation was held in the fine Recreation Hall, where many visitors were assembled, and the nurses eager and expectant each wearing the Red Rose of England made a charming reminder of St. George's Day!

Councillor A. D. Bermel, F.C.C.S., J.P., opened the proceedings and among the guests on the platform (gay with lovely spring flowers and plants) were His Highness the exiled Kabaka of Buganda and the Mayor of Stepney, Councillor J. McCarthy, J.P.

In welcoming the visitors the Chairman spoke of what was now offered for the welfare of the patients and in paying warm tribute to the nursing staff, stressed the urgent need of recruits. He considered the Nursing Profession was a noble one.

Mr. Furst who gives much of his time to help the nurses in their training; the Administrative Sisters and Ward Sisters and Staff Nurses; Mr. Burrell the Group Secretary, Senior Officers of the Group, the Hospital Secretary and their staffs and of course the domestic, laundry, and porters, and in fact all those who help in any way towards the efficient working of the hospital.

"We are pleased to see our Chaplains and we do thank them for the help they give, not only to our patients but ourselves.

"I would like to thank our Secretary and Committee of our League of Friends who have given so much of their time and service to our hospital.

Since the last Re-union a number of improvements have been completed. New cubicle curtains in the female surgical ward, new clinical rooms and a delightful ward where our nurses can be nursed when sick. We hope that all our wards will have cubicle curtains by our next Re-union.

"Student Nurses are having additional experience in Sick Children Nursing at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Sick Children, and additional experience in Gynaecological experience at Mile End Hospital, and we are greatly indebted to both Miss Crocker and Miss Robertson and their Staffs for their help and co-operation in this new scheme.



Prizewinners in Front Row.

Second Row: Principal Tutor. Exiled Kabaka of Buganda. Mayor of Stepney. Mrs. B. A. Bennett. Mr. Furst. Matron.

Miss R. E. Finch, S.R.N., S.C.M., Matron, presented her report:—

"Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Hastings, Your Highness, Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen—

"Today is St. George's Day and it is appropriate that in this hospital of St. George, we should specially honour it.

"Before I give my short talk, I should like, on behalf of the Committees and Nursing Staff to extend a very sincere welcome to Mrs. Bennett, to all our guests, and we are specially honoured to welcome among our visitors His Highness the Kabaka of Buganda.

"We do want you all to know how much we appreciate the interest you have all shown in coming to this ceremony.

"It is very kind of Mrs. Bennett, in the midst of an extremely busy life to find time to pay us her second visit this year. She is well known in the nursing world for her many services to the profession and as Principal Nursing Officer to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, her duties take her all over the country in connection with the nursing profession.

"It is not possible to mention by name all those who have given us their personal help but there are many, Dr. Duke, our Medical Superintendent, who unfortunately is unable to be with us today, the Medical Staff, particularly

"It is to my nurses who will be receiving their certificates that I want to say a few words. It is not possible for you all to win prizes, but I am confident you will all keep an established place in the world as good practical nurses and be worthy ambassadors of your training school.

"Try to remember the advice you have been given and the knowledge and experience gained during the three years—particularly that the atmosphere of the hospital is largely determined by its nurses. Its nursing standards is the (sum) total of the standard which every nurse sets for herself, so the higher the standard of each individual, the higher the standard of the whole hospital. We must always hold to the ideal.

"Imagination too is important, and we need to use it far more than we do, providing, of course, it is disciplined and controlled and turned outwards to help other people, it is the greatest gift a nurse can have.

"It is important that you all keep abreast of the many changes taking place in the new Health Service brought about by modern science, and in spite of all the wonderful new buildings and new drugs, nursing is an art and not a science, and we must use this art to build up new traditions and at the same time remembering to retain some of the old fashioned virtues and receive each patient, whoever he may be,

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