

Nursing Echoes.

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The nurses of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute are proud indeed that Queen Alexandra has elected, as her first ceremonial act, the presentation of badges and certificates to some of their number, and that she should have invited 770 of them to Marlborough House on this occasion. There is no more useful or hardworking body of nurses than those who, as the messengers of the Queen, go in and out the homes of the sick poor, the practical proof of the sympathy of their Sovereign for their troubles in time of illness, and we are glad that the Queen's Nurses, should have received honourable recognition at the hands of Queen Alexandra, whose gracious kindness has endeared her to the whole nursing profession.

The Queen's nurses assembled on Wednesday last, at the Drill Hall of the London Scottish Volunteers, in James Street, Buckingham Gate, where an excellent luncheon was provided for them. They were marshalled by Miss Peter, the General Superintendent, and marched across the park to Marlborough House.

Her Majesty, who was accompanied by the King, Princess Louise, Princess Victoria, and the children of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, arrived on the lawn of Marlborough House at three o'clock, and, an address having been presented on behalf of the nurses, Her Majesty spoke as follows in reply: "It gives me great pleasure to receive you all here to-day, and it is most gratifying to me to be able to carry on the noble work founded by our deeply-beloved and never-to-be-forgotten Queen Victoria. I have always taken the most sincere interest in nurses and nursing, and it affords me heartfelt satisfaction to be associated with you in your labour of love and charity. I can, indeed, imagine no better or holier calling than that in which you are engaged, of tending the poor and sick in their own homes in the hour of their greatest need. I shall follow with interest the reports of the Institute, and shall anxiously note the progress which you are making from year to year. I pray

that God's blessing may rest upon your devoted and unselfish work, and that He will have you in His holy keeping." The distribution followed.

When this ceremony was over all the nurses present marched past the Queen, and then dispersed about the beautiful gardens and enjoyed the hospitality which Queen Alexandra knows so well how to dispense with graciousness and tact.

A pleasant conversazione was given by Miss Edith Debenham at St. Andrew's House, Mortimer Street, on Thursday in last week, at which many members of the Club and House, as well as numerous of its well-wishers were present. Miss Debenham, who received the guests in the spacious corridor at the top of the stairs looked extremely well in a black dress, relieved by a square cut under-vest of pink mousseline-de-soie, under the handsome bolero. The restaurant was converted into a music room for the evening, a purpose for which it was well adapted, and an excellent programme of instrumental and vocal music was listened to with keen appreciation.

The instrumental performers were Miss Edith and Miss Agnes Debenham, Miss Mabel Morris, Miss Ellen Howard, and Miss Florence Hemmings, and Miss Aline Lawrence acted as accompanist. The quartett of stringed instruments were admirable, while the violin solos by Miss Morris, and Miss Agnes Debenham, and the violoncello solos by Miss Florence Hemmings were heartily applauded. Mr. Francis Debenham contributed two admirably rendered songs to the programme, and Miss Gertrude Wallis gave some excellent recitations.

The House itself came in for its full share of admiration, and Miss Debenham is to be congratulated on having placed within the reach of nurses the possibility of refined and comfortable quarters between their cases.

The Earl of Selborne, First Lord of the Admiralty, announced in the House of Lords on Monday night, that the Atlantic Transport Company has presented the Hospital Ship *Maine* to the Government. In making this generous offer, Mr. B. N. Baker stated that he was influenced by the protection afforded to his interests under the British Flag, and also by the noble work achieved by American Women in equipping and maintaining the *Maine* while on service as a hospital ship in South Africa and China. Lord Selborne added that this gift had been completed by the previous gift to the nation,

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