

### Annotations.

#### THE KING'S GIFT TO THE NATION.

The King has addressed a letter, dated Coronation Day, to Mr. Balfour, signifying to the Prime Minister that as Osborne is sacred to the memory of the late Queen, it is his wish that, with the exception of those apartments which were in the personal occupation of Her Majesty, his people shall always have access to the house which must ever be associated with her beloved name.

As regards the rest of the building, the King hopes that it may be devoted to national purposes, and be converted into a convalescent home for officers of the Navy and Army whose health has been impaired in rendering service to their country.

#### CORONATION GIFT TO THE KING.

The King received in audience on Monday the Lord Mayor, Viscount Duncannon, and Sir Savile Crossley, who presented the Coronation Gift of £115,000. His Majesty expressed his pleasure that the gift embraced the offerings of the poor amongst his subjects as well as of the rich, and also said that until the London hospitals were free from debt he should not cease to strive after this object.

#### THE KING'S SANATORIUM.

It is officially announced that 180 essays were sent in competition for the three prizes sanctioned by His Majesty early in the year in connection with the erection of a sanatorium for tuberculosis in England. The Committee have unanimously awarded the first prize of £500 to Dr. Arthur Latham (London), with whom is associated as architect Mr. William West (London). We are glad to note the name of a medical woman (Dr. Jane Walker) amongst those of four authors of essays of great excellence which are awarded honourable mention.

#### THE MIDWIVES' ACT.

The Midwives' Registration Bill has now received the Royal Assent, as signified by the Royal Commissioners—the Lord Chancellor, Lord James of Hereford, and the Earl Waldegrave. It passes into the Statute Book as the Midwives' Act, 1902. The fact should be noted by all nurses who have taken out a midwifery certificate and whom therefore the Act concerns. It is a curious anomaly that such nurses will now be able to register their

obstetric qualifications, while their medical and surgical knowledge receives no recognition from the State. It is one which must inevitably be rectified sooner or later by the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

#### A VALUABLE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.

It is a matter of importance that the physique and health of nurses should be good, not only because of the arduous nature of their work, which at times tries even the strongest constitution, but also because their patients derive pleasure and confidence from the sight of, and still more from contact with, healthy persons. It is undeniable that healing and vigour are imparted by the touch of a skilful masseuse, and it is more than probable that the exhaustion consequent upon her work is due not only to its arduous nature, but also to the fact that by some process, conveyed through her touch, "virtue has gone out of her," and she has given some of her own strength to invigorate her patient. It is an acknowledged truism that a masseuse, however skilful, will "never do much good" if she is not physically robust, and there is no question that sound health is an imperative necessity in all nurses if their work is to effect the best possible results.

But, this granted, there is also another side to the question, and that is that a nurse who has not at one time or another been through a bad illness has missed an experience which may be of the utmost value in equipping her for her work. She may minimise the effect of this deficient experience, if she is a woman of strong sympathy, by putting herself to some extent in the place of the patient, but nothing will ever quite take the place of actual experience. To the busy nurse, for instance, it appears a matter of small moment whether the thermometer is left with a patient five minutes or fifteen. To the patient the longer interval seems interminable. An open or closed door, as the case may be, may set his jangled nerves all agog, while the way his food is served often makes all the difference in its being taken with relish or altogether rejected. All these things may be trifles, but the world of a sick person is very circumscribed, and trifles are apt to develop an importance out of all proportion to their true relative value. It is an immense gain to nurses to be able to appreciate this fact, and it is best learnt in the school of sickness.

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