

The Queen and the Yeomanry Hospitals.

THE warm interest taken by Her Majesty the Queen both in the British soldier and in the profession of nursing is well known, and it was therefore appropriate that this should take practical expression in the presentation by her to the medical and nursing staff of the Imperial Yeomanry Hospitals, who have served in the recent war, of the South African War Medal. The ceremony which took place at Devonshire House, on Monday last, was one of the most brilliant of the Coronation functions; the beautiful gardens looked their best, and formed an ideal background on this interesting occasion.

Among those awaiting the coming of Her Majesty on the terrace, where a large blue and yellow umbrella tent had been erected, were the Duchesses of Beaufort, Somerset, Sutherland, and Adeline Duchess of Bedford, the Marchioness of Hertford, the Countesses of Ancaster, Dudley, Scarborough, and Essex, Countesses Howe and Grosvenor, Viscountess Galway, and Ladies Boston, Chesham, and Rothschild. Shortly before the time appointed for the arrival of the Queen, Earl and Countess Roberts, Viscount Kitchener, Major-General Sir A. Gaselee, Lord Chesham, General Sir Mansfield Clarke, General Sir T. Kelly-Kenny, and Sir H. Trotter, attended by Captain Molyneux-Montgomerie, A.D.C., came on the ground.

Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener both wore blue undress uniform, and, amongst other decorations, the new Order of Merit.

Soon after four o'clock the sound of cheers in Piccadilly announced the arrival of the Queen, who shortly appeared on the terrace, which she entered through the house, on the arm of the Duke of Devonshire. She was accompanied by the Duchess of Sparta, the Prince of Wales, Princess Victoria, Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, Princess Louise of Schleswig-Holstein, and by Princess Louis of Battenberg, and Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark. Her Majesty was attended by the Dowager Countess of Lytton, the Hon. C. Knollys, Colonel Brocklehurst, the Hon. S. Greville, the Hon. Mary Dyke, and the Hon. Sylvia Edwards, while Viscount Crichton was in attendance on the Prince of Wales.

The Queen wore a gown of mauve voile, in which was inset lace with a fine edging of gold. A broad, soft satin sash fell nearly to the ground at the back, and a mauve chiffon ruffle gave the requisite touch of softness at the throat. Her toque was white, with a cluster of mauve flowers in front, relieved by a touch of black velvet behind. The whole effect achieved the perfection of taste which is characteristic of Her Majesty. Taking up her position under the tent the Queen quickly pro-

ceeded to the business of the day—the distribution of the medals, which were handed to her by Countess Howe, Chairman of the Yeomanry Hospitals Committee. First came the medical men, then the Nursing Sisters now in England, these being Sisters K. B. Brereton, W. E. Cheeseman (housekeeper), E. C. Cheetham, G. Digwood, M. E. Ireland, B. Lancaster, A. MacLeod, H. M. O'Connor, D. Pryde, M. E. Rowell, E. K. Sharp, E. C. Smith, F. J. Smith, B. J. Talbot, E. Tucker, E. F. Uppleby, D. West, L. Whiley, and Young.

Next came the ward maids, and after them the orderlies, some of whom were in the uniform of the Army, others in Volunteer and Yeomanry uniforms, others again wore khaki, while some who belonged to the ambulance corps of various fire brigades wore the uniform and brass helmet of these brigades. Among the Sisters also there was considerable diversity of uniform, some wearing the grey washing dress, apron, red cape, and cap of the Army Reserve, while others were in blue and grey cloaks and bonnets. We could have wished indeed that they had been inspected by a superintendent of nursing before they came forward to receive their medals at the hands of the first Lady in the land. Their appearance would have been more uniform and trim.

The ceremony, which was performed with charming graciousness by Her Majesty, being over, those present dispersed to wander about the beautiful garden, and it was evident that many friendships begun in Africa were renewed, and there were many hearty handshakes between those whose acquaintance began at the seat of war. Many, both of the Sisters and men, were wearing the badge of the Imperial Yeomanry, three Prince of Wales's Feathers on a blue and red ribbon. The war medal, which was suspended by an orange, red, and blue ribbon, and which bore on the front the effigy of the late Queen, and on the reverse side a representation of Britannia, was proudly exhibited to friends and acquaintances by the recipients. By five o'clock the band of the Scots Guards played "God Save the King," and a memorable occasion was over.

International Council of Nurses.

The Transactions of the International Congress of Nurses held at Buffalo are nearly ready, and, as soon as the price is to hand, orders may be sent to Miss Banfield, at the Polyclinic Hospital, Philadelphia. The Report, which has been edited by Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, makes a handsome volume of about five hundred pages, and is full of invaluable information of nursing up to date in nearly every country in the world. The Report includes the transactions of the meeting of the International Council of Nurses, as well as the work of the Congress.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)