

## The Prince of Wales at Guy's.

### "THE HIGH AND INDISPENSABLE POSITION OF NURSES."

Charming, old-world "Guy's" was gay with flags and flowers on Monday afternoon, when their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales paid it a visit to open the beautiful new Nurses' Home—dedicated to Henriette Raphael. The Prince (who is President of the Hospital) and the Princess were received by the Treasurer, Mr. Cosmo Bonsor, the Matron, Miss Swift, the Governors, and members of the medical and surgical staff before taking their places on the platform in the pavilion where the official opening ceremony was held.

After the proceedings had been opened with prayer by the Bishop of Rochester, the Treasurer welcomed the Royal guests, and alluded to the generosity of the late Mr. H. L. Raphael, who gave £20,000 to found the Home, and incidentally said many nice things about nurses. But the speech of the day was excellently delivered by the Prince of Wales, who aroused warm applause by his touching reference to

#### THE RECOVERY OF THE KING.

The Prince said: "Before I allude to the object for which we are met together to-day I am sure that all who are here will join with me in expressing our feelings of unbounded thankfulness to God for the merciful recovery of my dear father the King. And I wish to take this first opportunity which offers itself to say how His Majesty the King, the Queen, and the whole of our family have been cheered and supported during a time of severe trial by the deep sympathy which has been displayed towards them from every part of the Empire. I should also like to say that we who have watched at the sick-bed of the King fully realise how much, humanly speaking, is due to the eminent surgical and medical skill, as well as to the patient and highly-trained nursing which it has been His Majesty's good fortune to enjoy. So it seems almost fitting that one of the first public ceremonies that the Princess and I should take part in since the King's serious illness should be to open this beautiful home for nurses. It is only in comparatively recent times that the *role* of the nurse in the sick-room has been fully recognised; but are there not many here who, like myself, will throughout their lives remember with the deepest gratitude the soothing comfort—in deed, I may say the blessing—of efficient

nursing? Once the value of this work was recognised, nursing has been more and more looked on as a proud and honourable career. The recent war has shown us what a benefit the country derives from having in its civil hospitals a reserve of nurses available for services in the field.

#### NURSES' INDISPENSABLE POSITION.

"We know how much splendid work was done in South Africa by the trained nurses, largely brought from such training-schools as this hospital which exist in this country, and I am sure the thanks of the nation are indeed due to the general hospitals that sent their best nurses to assist to cope with the serious difficulties with which the military medical authorities were at one time confronted. We recognise, then, the high and indispensable position which the nurses occupy, and the least that can be done for them is to provide the comforts of a home where rest and recreation after hours of arduous and self-sacrificing work can be had. There was one who most strongly held this view and gave practical effect to it. The Treasurer has already referred to that gift. I am glad to congratulate Mr. Raphael, who I am happy to think is one of our Governors, on the consummation of the work of which his father was the founder, and which will for all time bear the name of his mother."

His Royal Highness then declared the Henriette Raphael Home for Nurses open, amidst much enthusiasm.

Thousands of guests in their best bibs and tuckers thronged the grounds, chatted and took tea under the trees and inspected the Home, which we fully described last week, the brightness and completeness of which called forth genuine and well-deserved encomiums of praise.

In passing out, the tomb of Thomas Guy was visited by those who realise that his great spirit incompasseth the place as with a garment, and they noted with pleasure the wreaths of laurel which reverent hands had placed around his statue in the quadrangle.

## The Coming Coronation.

It is stated with some confidence that if all continues to go as well with the King as it has gone so far the ceremony of crowning may be performed on or about the 16th of August. It is declared that by that time the King will be able to bear the fatigue of a short service and of a brief procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey.

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