

those golden times which for ever remain bright in memory.

THE KINDNESS OF THE KING.

Next morning the members of the Organising Committee were commanded to Buckingham Palace by the kindness of the King. Drawn up in line in a fine apartment we awaited the coming of His Majesty. Almost at once, and quite quietly, he was before us, and in most gracious terms he thanked our Chairman, Mr. Blair, for the organisation which had made the Fête so successful. Each in turn was presented by Sir William Carrington, the King greeting us and shaking us by the hand. The Secretary, Mr. Marsh, was specially congratulated upon his untiring work. The gracious reception at an end, our small procession of motor-cars wended their way back to the Education Offices, where we bid one another good-bye and proceeded on our way.

So ended the King's Fête to over 100,000 of London's school children, to whose welfare their nurses are so devoted, and of which we shall long retain the inspiration.

HELEN L. PEARSE.

The Education Committee of the London County Council report in highly complimentary terms to the Council of the children taking part in the King's Coronation Fête. They consider that the main credit for the remarkable success achieved must be given to Mr. Blair, the education officer.

The Committee recommend: "That to mark the Council's appreciation of the personal services and sacrifice of time of all the teachers and nurses concerned . . . they be granted special leave, with full pay at the convenience of the schools or departments concerned." The leave varies from one day to a week. The nurses are to have one day's holiday, which we think might well have been extended to two considering the excellent organisation of their department.

THANKS TO OLD FRIENDS.

A little cheque has been handed to Miss Mollett of the combined gifts of a few old friends, and she writes: "Will you thank my nursing friends who so kindly sent me a present for my house warming? I have invested in an arm-chair, really comfortable, and a dwarf bookcase, both of which will be in use daily." This is as it should be. We wanted our little gift to add to the comfort of Miss Mollett's home.

Nurses and the National Insurance Bill.

The meeting held at the Medical Society's Rooms on Monday evening, when Mr. D. F. Pennant, Hon. Secretary, of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, gave an address on the National Insurance Bill as it affects nurses, was a crowded and interested one.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who presided, said that the meeting was summoned to give nurses an opportunity of learning something about this important Bill as it affected themselves. So far as the Bill made provision against invalidity so far the principle was good. But we should, perhaps, agree that we did not like its methods, and the fact that women were neglected or penalised in connection with it seemed to be proved by the almost unanimous disapproval embodied in the resolutions drawn up by women's societies, and the fact that many of our friends in the House of Commons thought that the Bill would not have been presented in its present form, if women had had to be considered as voters.

MR. D. F. PENNANT.

Mr. D. F. Pennant said it was somewhat difficult to explain the Bill because nothing was more certain than that it would emerge very differently when it became law, from the form in which it passed its second reading.

Certainly the conditions as regards nurses could not be considered as settled, as Mr. Lloyd George had stated that he was considering drastic amendments in respect to hospital nurses.

Some people were of opinion that it was advisable to get hospital nurses exempted from the Bill, as so far as they were concerned it made provision for people who when ill would not benefit by it. The position was that the nurse would pay 3d. weekly, the employer 3d., and the State added one-third more. If nurses were exempted from the Bill they must realise they would lose this gift from the State.

Describing the broad lines on which the Bill affects nurses, Mr. Pennant said it assumed that the members of the classes concerned were members of friendly societies. Any society which gathered in the contributions and gave the required benefits in return might be approved under the Bill. Assuming then that you were a member of such a society—and the whole assumption of the Bill was based on this idea—what benefits did the Bill propose to give?

1. *Medical Benefit.*—The meaning of this was that the insured person would get the free attendance of a doctor when necessary. The position of nurses in this respect was rather peculiar, because in hospital, they already received this advice for nothing. The same applied to district nurses in some places, though not universally. The speaker said that he thought the Government was alive to this point of the loss of benefit accruing to the nurse.

2. *Sanatorium Benefit.*—The next benefit was the sanatorium benefit, and there was a chance

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