

## Nurses and the Coronation.

In the great Coronation ceremony which filled all the horizon during the past week, much kind recognition, official and otherwise, was received by the trained nurses of the United Kingdom. A few highly favoured members of the nursing profession, amongst them Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, as President of the Society of Women Journalists; Miss Becher, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S. and Miss Sidney Browne, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, T.F.N.S., were allotted seats in the Abbey itself, and on the Coronation Day, and on June 23rd, members of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service and of the Imperial Military Nursing Service assembled at the Admiralty and in Eaton Square respectively and marched down to the positions assigned to them at the foot of the Victoria Memorial, where members of the Army Nursing Service Reserve were also placed.

The members of the Territorial Force Nursing Service, who were also allotted seats in the same position, assembled at the Middlesex Hospital by the kind permission of Prince Alexander of Teck.

They were cordially received by the Matron, Miss Lloyd Still, and a substantial breakfast provided for them, the tables being beautifully decorated with flowers. Their comfort and needs were attended to with the greatest kindness by members of the nursing staff of the hospital.

The nurses looked very trim and smart as, escorted by two officers, they marched by way of Wigmore Street, Marble Arch, Park Lane, and the Green Park to the Victoria Memorial. Their new uniforms, blue grey in colour, with capes of army pattern of the same material, with scarlet facings and a silver "T" at each corner, and the badge of the Service on the right-hand side of the cape, evidently puzzled the spectators, one of whom was heard to remark, "Them's foundlings"! Most of the nurses provided themselves with the little luncheon packets made up by the Army and Navy Stores, and supplied to them for one shilling, containing sandwiches, cake, and other good things, with a bottle of lemonade—more than they could possibly get through, and the surplus was in many cases bestowed upon members of the police force, to whom it was very welcome, as their arduous duties on Coronation Day allowed little time to be spent on personal comfort.

The nurses round the Memorial had excellent places and saw the King and Queen both

leave and return to the Palace, the majority waiting until their Majesties appeared on the balcony after their return.

On Friday, June 23rd, the day of the Royal Progress, the large stand of His Majesty's Works and Public Buildings Office, in Whitehall, was kindly placed at the disposal of nurses from the principal London hospitals, as many as fifty seats being offered to some hospitals.

On Saturday, June 24th, members of the Royal Naval Nursing Service and also a number of Queen's Nurses had the pleasure of seeing the wonderful pageant of the Naval Review at Portsmouth.

Of private invitations the Lady Mayoress, on the day of the Royal Progress, extended the hospitality of the Mansion House to twelve members of the Territorial Force Nursing Service of the City and County of London, as well as to thirty members of the City of London detachment of the Red Cross—15 men and 15 women—on duty near the Mansion House during the morning under the direction of Colonel Broome-Giles, to deal with casualties. Happily none which were serious occurred, and most of the waiting spectators who showed symptoms of fainting, and were dealt with, recovered in time to see the Royal Procession pass.

Many members of the nursing profession were also indebted to Mr. W. W. Astor for the opportunity of enjoying the Coronation festivities under most pleasant conditions, for he most generously provided a stand for 150 each day at 18, Carlton House Terrace, and entertained them to lunch after the procession had passed, after which some of them walked along the Mall to the Victoria Memorial and saw the King and Queen come out on the balcony on their return.

The Nursing Staff of Charing Cross Hospital were very fortunate in having much hospitality extended to them. Miss Heather-Bigg, the Matron, and nine of the Sisters accepted Mr. Astor's kind invitation, and Captain Butler also allotted seats to the nursing staff on the Houses of Parliament stand. The Countess Brownlow invited 20 nurses to see the Royal Progress on Friday from Carlton House Terrace, and Lady Cowdray offered 16 seats the same day. The Manager of the South-Eastern Railway gave four seats. Prebendary Shelford gave them seats on the stand in St. Martin's Churchyard. Sir Hector Macdonald invited fifteen nurses, and the Committee of the hospital allotted seats to some of the nurses and residents on their own stand. The domestic

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)