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EDITORIAL.

THE KING'S VISIT TO FRANCE.

The King, after his recent visit to the Army in France, in the course of a letter addressed to Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, warmly congratulating him and the troops that have fought so magnificently under his command on the triumphant issue of the recent operations, wrote:—

"I gratefully recognise that this high moral is in part the outcome of a hearty co-operation between the fighting Army and the great organisations behind the line; the transport service by land and sea; and those vast industries in which the men and women at home maintain the supplies of food and munitions of war.

"It was a pleasure to me to find from the admirable condition of the horses and mules of the various units I inspected that the new Armies fully uphold our national reputation as good horse-masters.

"Of the hospitals, their efficiency, skill, devotion, and untiring efforts of the staffs, I cannot speak in too high praise.

"I realise with thankfulness all that is done for the spiritual welfare of the troops by the chaplains of the different denominations.

"I return home with feelings of profound admiration for our Armies, convinced that in union with those of the Allied nations, we shall, with God's help, secure a victorious peace worthy of the noble sacrifices made; a peace which must be a surety to coming generations against sufferings such as the present world has endured through-out these years of relentless war."

His Majesty visited several hospitals and casualty clearing stations near the fighting line and his visit was the source of much pleasure to both patients and staffs of these institutions.

A MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

At the instance of the Prime Minister, the National Memorial which urged the immediate establishment of a Ministry of Health as an urgent war measure has been laid before the Committee of Home Affairs. The Home Secretary, in a communication to Sir Kingsley Wood, states that the Committee have recently been considering the details of the scheme, and that the object of the Committee is to provide for the establishment of a Ministry with as complete powers as possible.

The President of the Local Government Board, who is a member of the Committee, has also announced that the Committee are about to conclude their deliberations, and that the scheme is practically completed.

It is expected that the Bill will be introduced at the beginning of the next Parliamentary Session.

No class of the community realise the necessity for a Ministry of Health more keenly than the trained nurses in the three kingdoms, whose work is largely concerned with the prevention as well as the cure of disease, and the maintenance of health. Sir Charles Booth in his "Notes on Social Influences" in the last volume of "Life and Labour of the People of London" wrote in reference to district nursing, "It is almost true to say that wherever a nurse enters, the standard of life is raised" and Dr. Thomas, at the last Conference of the National Union of Trained Nurses, said that the devoted, unflinching, steady, educational pressure of the L.C.C. School Nurses was revealed by the improving figures year by year, even in war time, when the chances of infection are multiplied a thousandfold by the close proximity of the hugger-mugger life of trench and camp to the homes of the people.

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