

midwives, and nurses, now often confronted with almost insuperable difficulties and anxiety in the care of their maternity patients; that many women might be saved from avoidable suffering and premature death; and that the methods, management and traditions of the Home would serve as educational guidance and helpful encouragement to every mother nursed within its walls, and to every person concerned in the advancement of maternal and child welfare.

SIR ALFRED MOND said that to anyone who held the responsible position of Minister in charge of the health of this great Nation he could imagine no happier occasion. Her Majesty had come to show her practical interest in the health of the Nation, and had given a lead which he hoped would be followed throughout the country and Empire. The laying of this foundation stone would be a symbolical act of great importance. The Home had been, and would be, not an isolated house, but an establishment which would serve as a model to others. So far as the officers of his Department were concerned their help could be relied upon. No object was so necessary or so appealing, when one cast one's mind over the houses in which women were labouring to produce the race. The Minister expressed his gratitude to the Queen for her interest in the noble cause of maternity and child welfare. He hoped Her Majesty's interest would not end with the ceremony, but he was sure it would not, but would be deep and abiding.

THE BISHOP OF WILLESDEN then briefly and impressively conducted the religious ceremony, after which the Queen laid the Foundation Stone of the new building, with an ordinary workman's trowel, and in a clear voice declared it to be "well and truly laid."

THE MAYOR OF HAMPSTEAD, Alderman Fraser, then thanked Her Majesty for coming to Hampstead, and tendered her the humble appreciation of the borough of her presence. He referred to child life as the greatest asset of the country, and said, further, that there was no Department of the State on which more depended than the Ministry of Health, and spoke warmly and appreciatively of the great administrative powers possessed by Sir Alfred Mond.

VISCOUNT ASTOR, one of the trustees, seconded the vote of thanks, which was endorsed by Lady Bertha Dawkins, on behalf of the Committee, and the Queen then proceeded to Cedar Lawn where she visited the wards, which under the expert direction of the Matron, Miss Wishart, are in a high state of efficiency. Not only the nurses, but the children of the Royal Soldiers' Daughters' Home, in scarlet and blue frocks, formed a charming guard of honour; health, happiness, and in many instances beauty, radiating from these delightful little people, with one of the smallest of whom the Queen stopped to shake hands.

Needless to say it was a gala day at Cedar Lawn. In the wards the white quilts were spotless, the pale blue jackets worn by the patients most becoming, and the polished floors, simple furniture, and beautiful pink carnations artistically arranged, made an ideal environment for the newly-made

mothers. The babies' cots were not slung out of reach at the foot of the bed, as so often happens, but were on the right hand of the mother, where they should be.

We wish great success to the Home which has begun its educational career so auspiciously, and sincerely hope that the seed sown will bear fruit in the organisation of many more Homes on similar lines throughout the United Kingdom.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE "AT HOME."

A delightful "At Home" was given at the Wharncliffe Rooms, Great Central Hotel, Marylebone, on Wednesday, October 12th, by the Matron-in-Chief and Members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Miss Beadsmore Smith, C.B.E., R.R.C., was an ideal hostess, ably seconded by Miss Hodgins, R.R.C. (Principal Matron at the War Office), and the Sisters present. The red capes, distinctive of the Military Nursing Service, contributed to the gaiety of the scene, as did the shaded lights and the bright floral decorations. The members of the Service seemed, as is the wont of nurses when they relax, lighthearted and care-free, yet one could but remember the different conditions under which these same Sisters had met and worked, fighting for the lives of the Soldiers of the King, and performing their duty with high courage, coolness and devotion, in hospitals, casualty clearing stations, on hospital trains and hospital ships—while enemy air craft flew overhead, and U boats infested the sea.

The guests of the Service were many, including members of its Nursing Board, past and present nursing officials (both of Q.A.I.M.N.S. and of the allied Territorial Force Nursing Service), the Matrons of the principal London Hospitals, and distinguished medical practitioners both military and civilian.

Conversation over the tea-cups, while discussing the excellent sandwiches, delectable cakes, and ices hospitably dispensed by the Sisters, drifted inevitably to the State Register and to the form which the State Uniform and Badge for Registered Nurses would take. Admiration was expressed for the grey Military Uniform and its distinctive cap with the Badge of the Service embroidered in red on the point at the back, and most people were agreed that it would be difficult to find one simpler, smarter, or more becoming than that held in such honour by reason of the honourable record of the members of Q.A.I.M.N.S.

The gay music and the fine floor of the Wharncliffe Rooms proved an irresistible attraction in combination. Few members of the nursing profession can resist the opportunity of a dance, and the conditions were ideal. Everything was informal and spontaneous, and all combined to say that the party could not have been a greater success.

M. B.

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