

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, REGISTERED NURSE.

No. 1,770.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1922.

Vol. LXVIII

EDITORIAL.

THE ROYAL WEDDING.

The Royal Wedding on Tuesday last was a ceremony which peculiarly appealed to the British people, and, under the surface, for those who had eyes to see, presaged not only happiness to the bride and bridegroom, but held a message of hope for the Empire. With stately ceremonial, as befitted the wedding of the only daughter of a monarch who holds sway over an Empire upon which the sun never sets, the Princess Mary came to the National Shrine, there to plight her troth to the man of her choice. From near and far came the people to greet the bride as she drove with the King to the Abbey, winsome and modest, acknowledging repeatedly the cheers of the crowd who from midnight onwards had "kept the pavement," that they might store in their memory, and describe to their children and their children's children, the ceremonies of so great an occasion.

But the spirit which inspired the great crowds was not primarily one of curiosity, or a legitimate desire for enjoyment. Only recently the country has emerged from the shadow of a terrible war, a war marked by such suffering and such harrowing detail as never war has caused before. Throughout these years their Majesties, the King and Queen, set an example of fortitude, of endurance, of self-denial. Where possible they relieved suffering, where possible they solaced the sufferers; quietly and unostentatiously they went in and out amongst them, and the hearts of monarchs and people were knit together by mutual respect and mutual understanding. Therefore the people assembled in their thousands, and hundreds of thousands, not only to see a stirring spectacle, but, remembering how their King had sorrowed with their sorrows, to rejoice with him in his joy—for the happy marriage of a dearly loved daughter is an occasion with which all, from the least to the greatest, can sympathise.

If Tuesday's procession was a triumphal one for the bride, no less was it a demonstration of the security of the British Throne and of the Empire it represents, because the monarch who occupies it commands no mere lip allegiance, but reigns secure in the affections of his people.

The scene outside the Abbey was one of great beauty and interest. The skirl of the pipes; the khaki-clad lads; the splendid Guards, splendidly mounted; the heads of the police force on their fine horses, speedily made it one full of colour and charm. Far as the eye could see, beyond the space kept clear, stretched the crowds, patient, uncomplaining, packed so closely that it seemed almost the limit of human endurance, yet content to have it so for the remote chance of a glimpse of the bride.

The decorations, beautifully carried out by the City of Westminster, were pylons in blue and white colouring, bearing sometimes a portrait of Princess Mary, sometimes the letter "M" or "H," united by garlands of white roses, festoons of flags, and, at intervals, banners in white and gold, bearing the arms of the City of Westminster. An outburst of cheering, and the strains of the National Anthem, heralded the arrival, at the West Door of the Abbey, of Queen Alexandra; her procession was quickly followed by that of the carriages of the Queen and the Royal Princes; and then came the King and his daughter, preceded by a detachment of Life Guards, and cheered to the echo as they passed into the Abbey, where, in the presence of a notable and illustrious congregation, in which, by Royal Command, representative nurses were included, the marriage ceremony took place.

No life can be "roses all the way," but we know that this professional journal voices the aspirations of the trained nurses of the Empire when, in their name, it expresses to the Princess Mary the hope that throughout her life she may have a large share of the roses and the sunshine which were such conspicuous features of her wedding day.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)