

The Midwife.

OPENING OF THE "NORMAN RAE" NURSING HOME.

The "Norman Rae" Nursing Home at Shipley was opened by Princess Mary (Viscountess Lascelles) on September 5th in right Royal weather, and amidst great enthusiasm. Her Royal Highness was received by Sir Norman Rae, M.P., and Major Fawkes, and many friends of the institution.

FOR WOMEN OF LIMITED MEANS.

Welcoming the Princess, Sir Norman, in the course of an interesting speech, observed that twelve months ago representations were made to him as to how helpful a nursing home for women of limited means would be, where the charges would be less than those in operation at the ordinary nursing home.

For some considerable time the question was debated as to whether to build or buy a suitable building, but after serious consideration it was felt that those premises (the Westcliffe Residential Hotel), with the necessary alterations, would serve the purpose.

"The Home has been purchased and fully equipped," went on Sir Norman, "and vested in trustees free from all debt or capital charges. It is expected a further sum of £2,000 will be at the disposal of the trustees."

"There is accommodation for twenty-four patients, most of the rooms containing from two to four beds each. Later it is hoped to extend the accommodation for nurses and staff."

"We ask you, Princess of our Royal House and daughter of our loved and honoured Queen," concluded Sir Norman, "to perform the opening ceremony."

Princess Mary's reply was delivered in two sentences, not without a trace of nervousness, but in so gracious a manner as to convey the sincerity of her interest in the little ceremony. "I have much pleasure in declaring this Home open," she said, "I wish it the success which it thoroughly deserves."

TOUR OF THE WARDS.

Her Royal Highness, escorted by Sir Norman and the ladies and gentlemen who had supported him on the platform, walked round to the front door of the Home. There she accepted the ornate golden key, and, unlocking the door, passed into the hall. In the retiring room which had been arranged, Lady Rae, Mrs. Titus Salt, Miss Fawkes, Dr. Margaret Sharp, Dr. Jason Wood, and Miss Scott (the Matron of the Home) were presented to the Princess.

Under the guidance of Dr. Sharp (the chairman of the ladies' committee) and the Matron she was conducted through the wards. The tour had an interesting incident. In one ward was the Home's first patient—a proud mother and her fourteen-

day-old son. The Princess made kindly inquiries concerning their progress, for which she expressed her good wishes.

Discussing the Home and its equipment, she mentioned that she had inspected many maternity homes, the most recent being at Glasgow. In the theatre, quickly observant as usual, she noted the tiny cherubs that ornament the screen—the only deviation from the pure white furnishing.

The Princess was interested also in the staffing arrangements, and, seeing the Matron was wearing the ribbons of the Royal Red Cross (second class) and of a Belgian decoration, she inquired where they were won. Miss Scott explained that during the war she had been attached to a nursing staff in Glasgow, where many Belgian as well as British soldiers were treated.

Returning to the retiring room Princess Mary desired the remaining members of the Ladies' Committee—Mrs. Learoyd, Mrs. Dracup, Mrs. Fearnley, Mrs. Grange, Mrs. Mitton, Miss Dale, and Mrs. Hastings—to be presented, as well as Miss Robinson, Sir Norman Rae's private secretary, who has acted in connection with the purchase of the house. On being informed that Dr. Laura Veale, of Harrogate, one of the trustees of Sir Norman Rae's Scholarship Fund, was present, the Princess expressed a wish that she, too, should be presented.

After signing the visitors' book, Her Royal Highness was served with tea, and entered into an animated conversation with Sir Norman concerning the Home. She remarked that she was delighted with all that she had seen, and was surprised that a house built for a private residence had been found so admirably adapted to its new character.

She further inquired as to the fees that were proposed to be charged, and added the comment that such homes were badly needed in many parts of the country. The Princess impressed those with whom she chatted with her excellent knowledge of maternity work that is being carried on throughout the country.

Having spent over half an hour in the Home, she consented before leaving to pose for a photograph.

After the departure of the Princess the guests were taken round the Home and were entertained to tea in the marquee at the rear.

CHARMS AND FAIRY FAITH.

Truth should be the first lesson of the child and the last aspiration of manhood; for it has been well said that the inquiry of truth, which is the love-making of it, the knowledge of truth, which is the presence of it, and the belief of truth, which is the engaging of it, is the sovereign good of human nature.

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