

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN AND THE BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

If all goes well the British Empire Exhibition will be opened on St. George's Day, April 23rd, and it promises to be an intensely interesting show.

The Women's Section, of which there are general and executive Committees, has been warmly taken up by the Royal Princesses, and five of these ladies attended the general meeting, at the Board of Trade, on February 18th, when H.R.H. the Duchess of York (President) requested that all the members should be presented to her, and bestowed her charming smiles around. That was a pleasing beginning.

Lady Galway took the chair, and most encouraging reports were received on the activities of the Committee. Hospitality is the key-note of the Women's Section; and hopes were expressed for a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, a sight of the Trooping of the Colours, a Reception by the Government, Tea on the Terrace of the House of Commons, and clubs and patriotic people were coming forward to offer a hearty welcome to Overseas visitors. Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon reported on Women's Week at Wembley, when it is hoped each Dominion will take a day and entertain Overseas visitors from such Dominions. Thus, no doubt, we shall have Canada Day, Australia Day, New Zealand Day, South Africa Day, and India Day. These should be great events, and the High Commissioners and their ladies are taking up the proposal with enthusiasm. The Women's Section are eager that our people from Overseas shall be at "home" during their visit, and be helped to see all they wish without waste of time.

One excellent arrangement has been made with Mr. Allan Walker for a programme covering May, June and July, which will offer facilities for seeing places of historic interest in and near London. With such an expert guide and lecturer, those who are guided by him are assured of informative and delightful sight-seeing. It is calculated that 2,000 visitors may benefit weekly. One day will, no doubt, be given up to Dickens' land and places where memory still clings around great names. The tomb and Church of Rahere of blessed memory will, we feel sure, receive the homage of the faithful in the nursing profession. The welfare of girls and children is receiving attention, and it would appear that there is ample accommodation for thousands of visitors.

Curiously, one might almost say "as usual," the Women's Section has nothing to do with trained nursing arrangements, and as far as we can gather, with the help of a Matron and two nurses lent by the Willesden General Hospital, the whole show will be run by V.A.D.s.

The arrangements made are that the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and the British Red Cross Society, in conjunction with the British Empire Exhibition authorities, are providing a Central Aid Station and two subsidiary outposts.

The Central Aid Station will be provided with a Waiting Room, two Detention Wards with six beds each—one for men and one for women, two dressing-rooms, a Dispensary, and room for wheeled stretcher. The Exhibition Medical Staff during the Exhibition will consist of a Senior Medical Officer (whole time), in addition to Dr. Goddard; two Dispensers, a Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary Orderlies. Provision has been made for a staff, consisting of a Matron and two nurses (lent by the Willesden General Hospital), and a Staff Ambulance. First Aid boxes and other equipment will be provided.

It was reported that the Women's Section were helping to compile a list of people willing to receive paying guests in private houses at a reasonable charge. In conclusion, Lady Galway stated the aims and objects of the Fellowship

Scheme of the British Empire Exhibition, which is being organized under the Presidency of the Prince of Wales. These Fellowships will grant Empire Scholarships of £1,000 each, and will be available for young citizens of the United Kingdom to settle in the Overseas Dominions or Colonies, and for young citizens from Overseas to undertake a course of education in the Home Country. A Fellow will receive on payment of two guineas (1) a free pass for the term of the Exhibition; or (2) twenty-five transferable tickets. Badges of the Fellowship will be charming mementoes of the Exhibition. The Duchess of York and Princess Arthur of Connaught were enrolled as Fellows at once.

Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, accepted the first Woman's Badge of the Fellowship, and has expressed the opinion that it makes a very handsome jewel, and, indeed, the design, with its symbolical lion, to represent fortitude, and a swarm of bees to represent industry, is very ingenious.

Several of the Trained Nurses' Organisations are represented on the General Committee. The Royal British Nurses' Association and the National Council of Trained Nurses are naturally very interested, as colleagues from Overseas will, we hear, attend the Exhibition in large numbers, and they have only to apply to the Secretary, at the Headquarters of the Women's Section, 16, Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W. 1, to be afforded information; and later, at the Empire Visitors' Information Bureau, which is being provided adjacent to the main entrance at the Exhibition.

CONFERENCE ON THE PREVENTION OF THE CAUSES OF WAR.

From May 5th to 8th a Conference on the Prevention of the Causes of War, organised under the auspices of the International Council of Women, will be held in Hall 4, British Empire Exhibition, open to representatives of International Societies and their National groups. It will be the business of this Conference to discuss how women can use their activities to develop the International Mind in (a) Individuals and (b) Governments. An interesting programme is published, and may be obtained from the I.C.W.'s Conference and Exhibition Office, 26, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

COMING EVENTS.

March 1st.—Royal British Nurses' Association. Lecture by Mrs. Helena Normanton, Barrister-at-Law, on "Magna Carta." 3 p.m.

March 6th.—The Minister of Health to receive a Deputation of Registered Nurses introduced by Major R. W. Barnett, M.P., by request of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council. 3 p.m.

March 25th.—Nurses' Missionary League. Day of Prayer, Thanksgiving, and Resolve, Institute Hall, Westminster Congregational Church, Buckingham Gate. 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., 3 to 5 p.m., 7.30 to 9.30 p.m.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES ASSOCIATION CLUB FIXTURES.

Discussion on Professional Affairs.—Saturday, March 8th. 8 p.m.

Ramblers' Club.—On Tuesday, March 11th, the Ramblers' Club propose to visit the United Services' Museum, Whitehall, and will meet there at 2.30 p.m.

Kipling Afternoon.—On Saturday, March 22nd, Miss Anderson Parsons will give us "An Afternoon with Kipling." The proceeds of this entertainment will go to the Helena Benevolent Fund. The charge for admission will be 1s. 3 p.m.

The Legal Position of Health Visitors.—On Saturday, March 29th, at 3 p.m., Dr. King Brown, M.O.H. of Bermondsey, is to lecture on "The Legal Position and Duties of Health Visitors," a subject of very considerable importance to those nurses engaged in Public Health work.

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