

**THE KENT COUNTY MENTAL HOSPITAL,
MAIDSTONE.**

VISIT OF H.R.H. THE PRINCESS MARY, G.B.E.

The visit of H.R.H. the Princess Mary, G.B.E., Viscountess Lascelles, to the Kent County Mental Hospital, Maidstone, on June 7th, to open the new Nurses' Home and Training School, was a red-letter day, not only for the hospital itself but in the annals of mental nursing, for it is the first time within the memory of recent generations that a Royal Princess has honoured a mental hospital with a ceremonial visit, although the interest shown by the King and Queen, the Prince of Wales, and other Members of the Royal House in general hospitals is constant and untiring.

Privileged guests awaited the arrival of the Princess in the quadrangle, round which the Home is built, access to which is obtained through a central archway, and had time to observe the many excellencies of the design selected. A handsome, substantial, red-brick building, standing four square on rising ground, with steeply-pitched roof covered with red tiles, and having dormer windows, the woodwork like that of the other windows, being painted white, it is a Home to which the Nurses of the Hospital can point with pride, as comparable with any, and superior to most, of the Nurses' Homes attached to hospitals in this country. Owing to the form adopted every room is light

and airy, looking out either on to the green sward of the quadrangle, or over the beautiful Kentish Downs.

Her Royal Highness, on her arrival at the south-east entrance, was received by the Lord Lieutenant of Kent (the Marquess Camden), who presented to her Sir Henry Lennard, Bart. (Chairman of the Committee of the Hospital), the High Sheriff of Kent (Mr. F. C. Tiarks), Lord Cornwallis and Lord Sackville (respectively Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the County Council), Sir Coles Child, Bart. (Chairman of the Kent Mental Hospitals' Committee), the Mayor of Maidstone (Alderman A. T. Epps), and Dr. Wolseley Lewis, M.D., F.R.C.S., Superintendent of the Hospital.

In the entrance hall of the Home, Sir Henry Lennard presented members of the Committee of the Hospital, and of the Medical Staff, and the Matron, Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., F.B.C.N.

The Princess, after inspecting the lecture, silence, demonstration, and sisters' and nurses' recreation rooms, proceeded to the portico, her appearance being the signal for an outburst of cheering. The scene was a charming one, the traditional crimson drugging had been discarded, and rose-coloured felt had been laid with delightful effect. A gold chair, covered with handsome brocade was provided for the Princess, with which grey wicker armchairs for the official party were in harmony. From the flat roof of the portico hung trailing pink geraniums in their green leaves, and white and pink spirea edged the flower beds of the lawn. The soft blue suit and hat worn by the Princess made a charming note of colour, with which the beautiful bouquet of pink carnations and smilax tied with pink streamers, presented by the little daughter of the Medical Superintendent, harmonised completely.

Here Sir Frederick J. Willis, K.B.E. (Chairman of the Board of Control), and the Bishop of Rochester were presented, when Sir Frederick Willis said it was his very pleasant duty to ask Princess Mary to declare the Home open. There had been, he said, many modern changes in connection with the treatment of insanity during the last half-century, and these institutions were now hospitals in the truest sense of the word. They no longer spoke of "keepers" but nurses, and those who had to do with those institutions realised that it was on the nurses, ultimately, that the happiness, care, treatment and cure of the patient mainly depended. Doctors gave directions, but it was the nurses who actually carried them out.



Photo]

[Keystone View Co.

H.R.H. The Princess Mary, G.B.E., Viscountess Lascelles Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., F.B.C.N.

A RED-LETTER DAY AT THE KENT COUNTY MENTAL HOSPITAL, MAIDSTONE.

In the last 25 years great efforts had been made to improve the standard of nursing in mental hospitals. Dr. Wolseley Lewis, the Medical Superintendent there, had been one of the leaders of the movement, which demonstrated how important it was to do everything to make nurses happy and comfortable, and that beautiful Nurses' Home which they were asking Her Royal Highness to declare open would be a lasting monument to his great endeavours to improve the Mental Hospital Nursing Services.

The Princess responded to the invitation, and in a clear voice said:—

"I have much pleasure in declaring the new Nurses' Home open."

This declaration was greeted with much applause. The Bishop of Rochester then offered a Dedicatory

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