

THE EMPIRE'S THANKSGIVING.

Nothing could demonstrate more clearly the place held by the King in the affection of his People than the profoundly moving Message addressed to them by His Majesty, who has been pleased to write not as a Monarch to his subjects, but as a friend to "crowds of friends."

The note of intimacy throughout the Message was only possible because His Majesty was confident that it would be received with responsive affection, and nothing could better please the British people to the "remotest corners of the world" than that their King has recognised this, and bound them still more closely to himself by this evidence of his understanding discernment of their feeling, for himself and the Queen.

It is particularly gratifying to the Nursing Profession that the King should express, not once, but often, his appreciation of "the value of devoted nursing," and it has been one of the great joys of our Profession that it was not compelled merely to stand by, anxiously awaiting from hour to hour the latest news of His Majesty's condition, but that, within the Palace walls, some of its members were privileged to take an active part in the fight, happily crowned with success, for a life so precious.

With hearts full of thanksgiving the Nursing Profession will bear their part when, on the appointed day, King and People unite in an act of public thanksgiving for the restoration of His Majesty's health, in the historic Abbey, whether duty entails their attendance at the bedside of the sick or they are able to unite with others in prayer and praise.

Message from Canada.

Lord Willington, Governor-General of Canada, has sent a message to the King thanking His Majesty for "the glad tidings" contained in his Message to the Empire. He writes from Ottawa:—

"We trust before long to have an opportunity of joining with your Majesty's subjects throughout the Empire in prayer and thanksgiving for your safe recovery and in the profound hope that your Majesty may long be spared to reign over your loyal and devoted subjects."

Message from Australia.

Lord Stonehaven, Governor-General of Australia, in reply to an Anzac Day message from the King, writes from Canberra that "it evokes feelings of the deepest gratitude, which, if possible, are even stronger this year than ever, because of the anxiety caused by the King's illness and the relief felt at his progress towards recovery."

Special Thankoffering Fund.

An anonymous donor who wishes to give expression in some tangible form to the relief and gratitude which he shares with all His Majesty's loyal subjects by a gift to some cause which has in a special degree the King's personal sympathy, has set aside over a period of ten years a sum which will benefit King Edward's Hospital Fund for London to the extent of £100,000, in the hope that it will form the nucleus of a Thank-offering fund. The King's Fund, with His Majesty's approval, has opened a special Thank-offering fund, and this appeal and that of the National Radium Fund are acting in close co-operation.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

DESCRIBE AN ORDINARY CASE OF SCARLET FEVER AND MENTION THE COMPLICATIONS THAT MAY OCCUR.

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this month to Miss D. Millington, District Queen's Home, Arpley Street, Warrington, Lancashire:—

PRIZE PAPER.

Scarlet Fever is a highly contagious malady. It is communicable from the early period of its occurrence and all through its progress, but especially through the process of desquamation when the shed of epidermis which contains the poison is inhaled, comes in contact with articles of clothing, or finds entrance into food.

It is a disease of early life, especially in young children, but adults may suffer also. The period of *incubation* appears to vary. It may be from one to two days, but in many instances it lasts about a week.

The *invasion* of this fever is usually sudden and sharp, the infected person complaining of a general feeling of malaise, rigors, vomiting and sore throat, these are associated with a rapid pulse and quick rise of temperature.

Occasionally, especially in young children, the attack may be ushered in by convulsions.

The most characteristic point in the fever is the tongue. The tongue at first becomes furred, then about the fourth or fifth day it is denuded of its epithelium and hence we get the *Strawberry tongue*.

The interior of the throat is red, somewhat swollen, especially the uvula, soft palate and tonsils. There is also a tenderness and slight swelling of the glands of the neck.

The premonitory symptoms continue for about twenty-four hours, then the rash makes its appearance. It is first seen on the neck, chest, arms and hands, but quickly spreads all over the body, although not always on the face. This rash consists of minute thickly set red spots, which afterwards form a general diffuse redness and looks more like a scarlet blush. In a straightforward case the fever subsides with the disappearance of the eruption, and convalescence sets in with the commencement of desquamation or peeling, which first shows itself about the neck and proceeds slowly over the whole surface of the body.

Where the skin is thin, the desquamation is in the form of fine branny scales; but where it is thicker—as about the hands and feet—it comes off in large pieces.

The duration of this period varies, but is rarely complete before the 6th or 8th week, and not infrequently goes on for several weeks beyond that period.

It is during this stage that the complications are apt to appear, such as:

I. INFLAMMATION OF THE KIDNEYS OR NEPHRITIS.

Its onset may be announced by the return of fever, pain in the loins, swelling of the face, especially under the eyelids, accompanied by vomiting. There may be dimness of vision and headache.

The urine is very scanty, high coloured, and on examination contains albumen and an excessive amount of urates.

In favourable cases this condition may soon disappear but if not it proves extremely serious, causing suppression of urine terminating in uræmia.

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