

narrow and that small setbacks, inevitable at this stage, have a correspondingly more severe effect. It is important that the public should not interpret such setbacks or reports of "no change" as relapses. During each week there will be ups and downs and progress will consist of a slow and increasing predominance of the ups over the downs.

As regards nourishment, about which so many suggestions have been received, the difficulties will be understood when it is stated that there is disinclination for most foods and dislike for many, and that weakness necessitates that nourishment be given by a nurse, with a feeder. Adequacy of nutriment both as regards quantity and variety is now being secured, though not without difficulty. Moreover, the combating of loss of weight which has been notable, depends not only on food taken, but food digested and assimilated, and here again the exhaustion tells its tale.

The blood pressure has fallen too low, and the calcium content of the blood has of late considerably decreased. The administration of calcium, parathyroid extract, and strychnine is apparently beneficial.

The same is true of ray-therapy, which is being continued. It need hardly be stated that the question of transfusion has received full consideration. In an illness of this complicated character the indications for transfusion must be clear, and it must be remembered that with the most skilled procedure its employment in this case would entail risk. Moreover, the exhaustion is as much a weariness of mind as of body. Though there is an increasing sense of the burden of his illness, the will of the King to live is there. Because of the exhaustion the course must be long and for the present anxious. None the less improvement and progress are taking place slowly, but surely enough to justify the hope that the King will be restored to his people.

The medical men who have contributed to the King's care are Sir Stanley Hewett, Lord Dawson of Penn, Sir Humphry Rolleston, Sir Farquhar Buzzard, Dr. L. E. H. Whitby, Dr. Graham Hodgson, Sir Hugh Rigby, Dr. Francis Edward Shipway, Dr. Robert Stanton Woods, Dr. Francis Dutch Howitt, and Professor E. C. Dodds.

The nurses who, in their special sphere, have also contributed to the King's care are Miss Catherine Black, S.R.N., and Miss Rosina Davies, S.R.N. (London Hospital), Miss Nettie M. Purdie, S.R.N. (Westminster Hospital), and Miss Elizabeth A. Gordon (St. Thomas' Hospital). The names of the hospitals given refer to the training schools of these nurses. The London Hospital Nurses are still on its staff, and the others on the staff of a Private Nursing Institution. Recently Miss Rose Simmonds, S.R.N., Sister in the Dietetic Department at the London Hospital, has been summoned to the Palace.

The Lancet makes the following comment on the medical statement from which we have quoted above:

"The note of encouragement with which this statement ends will do much to renew a hope which has at times fallen very low. On the other hand, the obstacles to recovery are frankly set out, and no medical reader will gain the impression that their removal is purely a matter of time. Though there is increasing reason to think that the preservation of the King's life during these many weeks will not have been in vain, a more definite and settled improvement is unfortunately needed before our anxiety can be replaced by confidence."

QUEEN MARY, COUNCILLOR OF STATE.

The satisfaction with which the Nation received the notification that the King had appointed the Queen a member of the Council of State which he has constituted to act in his stead during his serious illness, is proof of its confidence in Her Majesty's high sense of public duty during the many years in which she has been Queen Consort.

The Queen may be assured that the manner in which she has assumed this additional responsibility at a time of such private anxiety is deeply appreciated by the Nation whose confidence and affection she holds in no ordinary degree.

The "Oneness of Feeling" of Canada.

The Queen's reply to the greeting of the Canadian Government at Christmas-tide to the King, the Queen, and the Members of the Royal Family, shows a high sense of statesmanship, as well as personal appreciation. The Canadian Government concluded their message with the following words:—

"We have felt that at this Christmas season we should like on the part of Canada to give enduring expression to this oneness of feeling and to the nearness of the relationship of our country to all other parts of your Majesty's Dominions."

The Queen's Reply.

"Please be assured that the message of greetings which you have so kindly sent on behalf of the King's Government in Canada and the people of the Dominion will be highly appreciated and valued by the King when his progress to recovery is sufficiently advanced for him to receive it personally.

"The expressions of love and devotion of the Canadian people; the knowledge of their prayers and sympathetic solicitude during the past anxious weeks and the message's note of joy and thankfulness to God for the hopeful condition of the King, touch me profoundly, and on this Christmas morning my children and I thank you from our hearts. I look forward to the day when the King will be cheered and strengthened by this testimony that the heart of Canada is with him in weal and in woe.

"MARY R."

The Devotion of the Women of India.

We think that both the King and Queen must be touched by the devotion of the women of India.

It is stated that at a women's conference, over which the senior Maharanee of Travancore presided, the Maharanee gave a special time for prayers, and paid tribute to the solicitude shown by the King and Queen for the Princes and people of India.

She laid stress on the progress in women's education and women's advancement under British rule, and said that they should be deeply grateful to Providence for having given a ruler like King George as their protector.

The Queen's Appreciation of Nursing.

While the Queen is occupied by high affairs of State, it is characteristic of Her Majesty's solicitude for those who serve her that she has shown especial consideration for the nurses who are in attendance on the King. A special suite of rooms has been set apart for them with a staff to ensure that their meals and rest times are comfortable and undisturbed.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)