

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

It is officially announced that the names chosen for the infant daughter of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York will be Margaret Rose.

The christening will take place in the Private Chapel at Buckingham Palace, which has been beautified for the purpose, at an early date. It is surmised our baby Princess will be known officially as Margaret Rose—Margaret after great Scottish queens, and Rose the floral emblem of England. The latter a sweet, old-fashioned name. Any way, of course, she is a White Rose, as a daughter of the House of York.

It is of interest that the Royal Horticultural Society's latest show was noteworthy for new flowers named after the baby Princess, such as a raspberry red gladiola called "Princess Margaret," and a miniature yellow and pink dahlia called "Baby Royal."

What a lovely treat to walk through St. James' Park—which has of late become the most exquisite garden in London, and find the King's Palace gleaming like marble, and to know that outside and in it is a fit residence for their Majesties after recent redecoration. Queen Mary is very house proud and no doubt, with the King, she received the Dominion Premiers and their ladies to the State Dinner last Friday with due magnificence. There is no doubt we do know the real art of gracious hospitality, and the simple splendour of our Court is unapproachable by any country in the world.

The Opening Session of the Imperial Conference took place in the Reception Room of the Foreign Office on Wednesday, 1st October, when Mr. MacDonald, the Prime Minister, was elected Chairman.

The first act was to send a message of respectful duty to the King.

His Majesty sent a gracious reply in which he stated that he realised the all-important questions which are to be considered, and that he would follow with close attention the progress of the deliberations of the Conference.

In the opening speech the Prime Minister said the Conference will deal broadly with three main aspects of the problems which are of common concern to us all—the relations of the members of the British Commonwealth with one another in the political and constitutional field, foreign policy, and economic questions.

The representatives of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Irish Free State, Newfoundland, and India all contributed speeches.

We like the spirit of Canada. Mr. Bennett said: "My colleagues and I from Canada come to the Conference not only with a message of affection and goodwill, but in the strong belief that by the concerted action of the whole we can advance the interests of all sections of the Empire.

The majority of the speakers stressed the importance of economic relations and co-operation.

We advise our readers to read and take a real interest in the deliberations of the Conference.

Prayers will be said daily at the services in Westminster Abbey for the deliberations of the Imperial Conference.

At a recent conference at the Ministry of Transport, between the Ministry, the British Medical Association and other bodies, there was a discussion as to the regulations for the issue of driving licences under the Road Traffic Act.

The proposed declaration of physical fitness, with particular reference to eyesight, came under review. It is probable that an applicant for a driving licence will be required to declare that his eyesight is not below a certain

minimum standard, which will be not less than a stipulated percentage below the normal. Applicants liable to fits will be barred entirely from obtaining a licence. The regulations are expected to come into force on November 1.

We wonder the Ministry of Transport does not tackle the hundreds of huge motor coaches which run without let or hindrance, block crossings in the busiest centres of the Metropolis, and cause obstruction on the pavements with bundles and baggage. Upper Regent Street might well be mistaken for a railway station, and the police are apparently helpless in the direction of traffic. Women cling together like limpets, and barge along, bumping into back and front of unfortunate pedestrians without apology, all apparently driven by the spirit of unrest.

The strain upon our splendid police force must be enormous and in justice to them shorter hours of duty will soon become imperative.

If we began to write all we desire to say about the League of Nations, much more space than we have at our disposal would be necessary. Suffice it to say we have no sympathy with its desire to control the British Navy. We see a future of usefulness, however, where the Health of the nations is concerned.

At the recent meeting in Geneva, Miss Susan Lawrence (Great Britain) presented to the League Assembly the report of the Second Committee on the work of the health organisation.

Miss Lawrence suggested that the success which had attended the League's inquiries into infant mortality indicated other directions for useful research. For example, the high state of mortality of infants during the first days of life, together with the still-birth rate, which apparently remained constant in most countries, was largely due to obstetric causes. An inquiry, too, into maternal mortality might not only indicate means of reducing the death-rate among women, but of lowering the mortality among newly-born infants.

A report from the Fifth Committee, on child welfare, presented by M. Georges Pernot (France), was made an occasion by Count Carton de Wiart (president of the Fifth Committee) for an expression of regret at the departure of Dame Rachel Crowdy, who had been chief of the section on social questions and the opium trade.

Dame Janet Campbell (senior medical officer at the British Ministry of Health) was elected one of three vice-presidents of the reconstituted Health Committee of the League.

Lord Exeter, Lord Paramount of the Liberty of Peterborough, represented the Queen at a ceremony in Peterborough Cathedral on September 25th, when he handed over to the Dean and Chapter the standard of Katharine of Aragon given by the Queen to be hung over the tomb of Queen Katharine in the north aisle of the chancel. The standard of Castile and Aragon given by Mr. R. H. Edleston, of Buckden Place, was also hung at the same time.

COMING EVENTS.

October 16th.—The British College of Nurses. Opening of Winter Session. Presentation of Certificates and Prize, Examination in Advanced Psychology. 39, Portland Place, W. 4.30 p.m.

October 24th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting. 20, Portland Place, London, W.1. 2.30 p.m.

October 25th.—The British College of Nurses' Council Meeting. 39, Portland Place, W. 2.15 p.m.

October 28th.—National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. Meeting of Executive Committee. 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. Tea, 4.30. Meeting, 4.45 p.m.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)