

NURSING ECHOES.

The sympathy of British Nurses with King Alfonso, and Queen Victoria of Spain, at the present time is deep and sincere, for their Majesties have always shown themselves the true friends of their people, desirous of fostering everything which promotes their welfare. More especially has the Queen taken a deep interest in Nursing, which is in a backward condition in Spain, and has endeavoured to graft on to the devotion of the nuns, who for the most part have charge of the nursing in Spanish hospitals, the modern methods with which, as an English Princess, her upbringing has familiarized her. Her daughters also have interested themselves in nursing, and in the work of the Spanish Red Cross Society, so that it is grievous that the good work should be interrupted with such startling abruptness.

We may be thankful that the Spanish Royal Family did not share the fate of their Russian cousins. But history teaches us that revolution is always accompanied by excesses. England, France, Italy, have all witnessed them, and the feelings of the world have been outraged by the demolition in Spain, by the Republican mob, of churches, monasteries, and nunneries, rendering homeless a number of the Religious, and demolishing by fire exquisite buildings which can never be restored, owing to anti-clerical demonstrations and excesses.

Every one it is announced is to have religious tolerance, but the National treasures are, alas, in ashes.

Nurses who regard the Imperial Nurses' Club, 137, Ebury Street, S.W., as their home, will grieve to learn that the Club is faced with a large and wholly unexpected expense, and has sent out an S.O.S. to its members and friends.

The Surveyor of Sites notified the Hon. Secretary, Miss C. H. Mayers, that the structure is in a dangerous condition, which must be attended to at once, and the estimate for the necessary repairs is £220.

Miss Mayers therefore organised a Sale of Sundries left over from the Bazaar last November, and other articles given by friends and members of the Club, and this was held at 137, Ebury Street, S.W., from Tuesday, May 26th, to Saturday, May 30th.

An interesting suggestion made by a member of the Club is that, perhaps, every member would like to give

5s. towards this unexpected expense. It does not seem much to ask in recognition, in a time of stress, of much which the members receive which cannot be computed in pounds, shillings, and pence; and if the suggestion were acted upon, it would bring in £100, nearly half the amount needed. An S.O.S. competition is also being organised, competitors to find as many English words as they can containing one "O" and two "S's." Competitors to send 1s. and their lists on or before June 23rd. Further information can be had from Miss Mayers.

The *British Medical Journal* of May 16th published in abridged form an article it had received from Dr.

A. C. B. Biggs, Medical Superintendent of the Napier Hospital, New Zealand, on the emergency measures adopted in the recent earthquake. Dr. Biggs writes that the nurses were magnificent, and without a moment's hesitation they were in among the shattered remnants of the wards and the ruins, in a brave endeavour to rescue those who had been caught.

Dr. Biggs writes in warm terms of appreciation of the assistance given by the Health Department. Experts in all branches, with the necessary personnel and equipment arrived from Wellington in a very short time after the disaster. These included, amongst others, Dr. Watt (Director-General of Health), Miss Bicknell, R.R.C., Miss Lambie, and Miss Moore. Dr. Biggs writes:—"I consider the services rendered by the Health Department were perfect; in fact, I am certain that no country in the world could have given a better organised or more efficient service, however



QUEEN VICTORIA OF SPAIN.

much preparation had been made beforehand."

In conclusion he reiterates his admiration for the courage and devotion displayed by the whole of the hospital staff under his control. "They proved," he says, "once more that the spirit we are proud to associate with the British race is still present in the highest degree." While all performed their duties so well, he makes special mention of the following nurses: Sister R. Lowe, Sister M. Read, Nurse F. Chesterman, Sister L. Bull, and Sister M. Wellock.

Our articles on "Wilhelmina Mollett's Early Days" will be continued in our next issue.

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