

### NURSING ECHOES.

The interest of the Queen in all that concerns the healthy upbringing of children is well known. It has done much to stimulate both associations and individuals working for child welfare. More than this, the affection of the Duchess of York for our little Princesses is the pride of the nation, which loves such an example in high places.

The picture which we print on page 203 shows Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose, the little daughters of the Duke and Duchess of York, being taken by their nurse for a drive in the Park. Happy children, healthy and beloved, their wise upbringing should be an influence for good throughout their lives, whatever exalted positions they may be called upon to fill.

A recent meeting of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing was held by invitation of Lord and Lady Forres at 70, Grosvenor Street, W., when Sir Harold Boulton presided.

Before the ordinary business of the Council, the Duchess of Abercorn presented Long Service Badges to the following "Queen's" Superintendents and Nurses who had recently completed 21 years' service under the Institute: Miss Constance M. Campion (Superintendent, Guildford Association); Miss Emily Smales (Queen's Nurse at Morley, Yorks.); Miss Ellen Stanley (Queen's Nurse at Strabane, Co. Tyrone).

Sir Harold Boulton reported that the Queen had been pleased to appoint the Earl of Athlone, Lady Rosebery, and Miss Susan Minet as members of the Council.

The Council heard with much gratitude that Princess Louise had presented a picture of Queen Victoria to the Institute.

The report of the Executive Committee was presented by Miss Bright and showed very satisfactory progress in all the branches of the Institute's work. The number of nurses sitting for the Roll Examination in June was the largest on record, and 22 associations had been affiliated since the end of February.

Lady Georgiana Mure reported that the National Gardens Scheme was proving a great success again this year.

The Queen has also appointed Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, Lady Forres, and Lady Digby Members of the Council of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing.

The Society of Medical Officers of Health, in their evidence submitted to the Departmental Committee on the Recruitment and Training of Local Government Officers, stated that "they are not satisfied that the best use is being made of the opportunity to provide probationers with experience of every aspect of nursing while they are being trained. They consider, for instance, that the training in observation and in the nursing of the acute sick and the mentally diseased which well-managed fever and mental hospitals afford is as essential to the education of a nurse as the years of general training devoted to surgical procedure and the care of sub-acute and chronic medical conditions, and that the time has come to ask the General Nursing Council to consider radical alterations in the training of

nurses which would involve an extension of the training of general nurses and a reduction of the disabilities of nurses in special hospitals.

"They consider that the general hospitals are not turning out nurses who really have a general training unless they have had previous training elsewhere, and that a comprehensive general training could be given without any undue extension of its duration beyond that which is already necessary, say, for a fever nurse who wishes to qualify for the general part of the register. Such a readjustment would be facilitated by the elimination of some of the menial duties which still devolve upon probationer nurses. The institutions now managed by local authorities might be used in such a way as to enable all their nurses to obtain experience of different branches of nursing without relegation of the special hospitals to an inferior position.

"For the reasons stated above, the Society is not in favour of sub-division of the register of nurses into various parts, but if such differentiation is to continue they are of opinion that the disability under which the large body of nurses trained in hospitals and sanatoria for tuberculosis suffer ought to be removed. It has already been mentioned that they are not admitted to any part of the register in the virtue of this training, although it is statutorily recognised as a qualification for appointment as a tuberculosis visitor. A national register of nurses which is divided into parts should therefore include a part for tuberculosis nurses."

The annual report of the Executive Committee of the Overseas Nursing Association covers so wide a field that it is always interesting. The Association was established thirty-five years ago with the object of providing trained nurses for hospital and private work in the British Colonies and Dependencies and amongst other British communities abroad. The number of nurses serving in the year 1930-31 was 746, of whom 142 were under local associations, and in hospitals not under Government, 15 in the Dominions and 589 in the Government hospitals in the Crown Colonies.

The Silver badge of the Association has been awarded to 50 nursing sisters who have completed five years' satisfactory service abroad. The suitability of a nurse for this award is judged by the annual reports received from the authorities under whom she has been working. Since 1908, when the practice of giving badges was first instituted, 444 presentations have been made. This year there is a substantial increase in the number of these awards, only 29 badges having been given in 1929-1930. The addition of a bar and riband to the Silver Badge as a recognition of ten years' service has been awarded to 19 matrons and nurses, an increase of four on the previous year. The presentation of the Silver Badge in many cases was the occasion of a public ceremony at which H.E. the Governor or some other high official of the Colony presided.

The names of seven nurses who have retired from the Association "after long and faithful service" have been placed on the Roll of Merit during the year. They are: Nurses E. F. Dunné, 16 years' service; A. M. McBride, 20 years' service; L. M. Jacobs, 22 years' service; B. M. R. Dray, 21 years' service; H. H. Theobald, 17 years' service; R. Veacock, 20 years' service; J. Fraser, 23 years' service.

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