

will be read, with great pleasure, we have no doubt, by all lovers of flowers.

Her Royal Highness the Princess Beatrice has from her youth up been very dear to the English people. The youngest child of Queen Victoria, a dauntless little girl from glimpses we get of her childhood in Mr. Bolitho's fascinating work "Albert the Good." We all realise her devotion as a daughter and her love for husband and children.

When, therefore, it was announced in the Press that Her Royal Highness had undergone an operation for the extraction of cataract, bulletins were anxiously awaited by the public, and the report that she had come through the preliminary operation on the right eye successfully was a great relief. Her sincere admirers and friends will hope to hear of her complete recovery.

How many people know that as long ago as 1869 a woman actually had the Victoria Cross presented to her?

A woman official of the Royal United Service Museum—to which the Queen has contributed many gifts connected with the fighting services—tells me that although women became officially eligible for the V.C. in 1920, in 1869 the officers of the 104th Bengal Fusiliers subscribed for and presented to Mrs. Webber Harris, the wife of their commanding officer, a replica of the V.C. in gold in recognition of her conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty while voluntarily nursing the men of the regiment through an epidemic of cholera. This lady was the only woman who accompanied the regiment to the isolation station, where she worked untiringly to save the lives of the men.

This Victoria Cross, with its inscription telling of the indomitable pluck of the recipient, has been placed on permanent loan in the museum by a member of the family, together with a miniature of the lady, who must have been proud to possess a replica of the decoration given only for the greatest deeds.

Mrs. Guy Ellis, Guys House, Grayshott, Surrey, writes to *The Times* :—

"I spent three months in the Matron's Quarters of the Leper Hospital in British Guiana last winter. It is well run by a very able doctor, who can arrest the early cases, and who makes life as happy for the inmates, who number nearly 300, as is possible in their sad condition. But there is one weak point in the establishment; it is the children's quarters, which, as well as being too small, are situated near the adults. Consequently they are bound to see disfigured people passing and repassing all the time. In so large a community it is impossible to avoid a few vicious ones, which means that the children hear and see things that are hurtful to their age, and some enter as early as two years old. We are anxious to build a wooden house for them in a field within the compound away from the adults, where they will have nothing whatever to do with them. The sum of £600 is required. In memory of my husband, who was interested in the mission field all his life, and of Compton Galton, who was Catholic Bishop of British Guiana, and worked there for over 30 years, I give £100 to start with."

DEDICATION OF A MEMORIAL TABLET AT ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, YPRES.

On Sunday, June 5th, 1932 (Anniversary of Battle of Messines), at a special Service held at St. George's Church, Ypres, several Memorials were dedicated by the Bishop of Fulham, including one of special interest to all Nurses, a brass Tablet fixed on the West Wall, with the badge of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and the following inscription :—

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF ALL NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN, THE DOMINIONS, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND THE VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENT MEMBERS WHO SERVED WITH HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES AND WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR, 1914-1918.

After an address by the Chaplain-General to the Forces, and the singing of the hymn "God of our Fathers known of old," the Memorials were dedicated.

Miss Osborne, Matron-in-Chief, Territorial Army Nursing Service, on behalf of the Nursing Services, asked the Bishop to dedicate their Memorial. Two of the Principal Matrons (Miss Moggach, 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, and Miss Bowling, 3rd Northern General Hospital, Sheffield) and other senior members of the Territorial Army Nursing Service were also present.

A chaplet of Flanders poppies from the Matrons-in-Chief and members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, and Territorial Army Nursing Service, and a Red Cross in memory of the Sisters and members of Voluntary Aid Detachments of the Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem and the British Red Cross Society, were placed below the Memorial.

BOILED BANDAGES.

Mr. McGovern (Glasgow, Shettleston, Lab.) asked the Financial Secretary to the War Office, in the House of Commons, if he was aware that, as a result of the recent economy proposals of the Government, the military authorities had ordered all bandages to be reused after boiling, and all lint dressings worn by patients which were not unduly soiled to be used a second time, the purchase of antiseptic boracic lint was forbidden, and plain lint was to serve for the same purpose; and whether, in the interests of the health of the troops, he would have those instructions withdrawn.

Mr. Duff Cooper (St. George's, U.)—I am aware that the notice of all concerned has been drawn to the substantial economy which can be effected by the washing of bandages and the further use of unstained dressings, and that, in the interests of economy, boracic powder and plain lint will in future be issued in place of boracic lint. The Army medical authorities are satisfied that these economies will in no way affect the health of the troops.

Mr. Maxton.—How much do the Government hope to save by this somewhat disgusting economy?

No reply was given.

We wonder what the Army Nursing Service thinks of this experiment. Personally we deprecate it, and would like to know if the officers as well as the rank and file are to run the risk of septic wounds—from the reuse of dressings not "unduly soiled."

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