

NURSING ECHOES.

The Duchess of York was present at a garden party at St. James's Palace on July 5th, and received purses presented by children in aid of the special appeal for the National Council for Maternity and Child Welfare.

Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, acting for the Princess Royal who, on medical advice has cancelled her engagements for the present, laid the foundation stone of the new Nurses' Home at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, W.C., on July 7th.

Concluding an eloquent speech in support of the reconstruction scheme and full of sympathy with the nursing profession, Princess Alice regretting the absence of the Princess Royal, said: "I think the public have got rather into the habit of expecting members of the Royal Family to be endowed with a physical endurance they would not expect in any other class of people. We are really not robots. But it is both our pleasure and privilege to help when we can all the good causes that exist to promote the welfare or alleviate the suffering of our fellow men, women and children."

Mrs. Stanley Baldwin is organising a "Fun of the Fair" to be held in the garden of 11, Downing Street, S.W., on Wednesday, July 19th, in aid of the new Headquarters for the Queen's Institute of District Nursing and the Midwives' Institute. Tickets price £1 1s. each.

Original and amusing side-shows are being planned, and a very entertaining afternoon, both for children and grown-ups, is promised.

The Mayor of Hampstead, who was accompanied by the Mayoress, was present at New End Hospital, Hampstead, on June 16th, to present the prizes and certificates won by the nurses.

Through illness Dr. E. Collingwood Andrews (chairman of the Hospital Committee) was unable to be present, and his place was taken by Miss C. C. du Sautoy, S.R.N. (vice-chairman).

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, congratulated those who had gained their certificates. She also congratulated those who had won prizes which meant constant hard work and determination. She also had a word for those who hoped to get a prize, and quoted the words, "Not failure, but low aim is crime." She reminded them that the general nursing certificate was only a foundation. They must make up their minds to obtain further certificates according to the Service they desired to enter, or for district nursing—the most interesting, in her opinion. But whatever they did, she impressed upon them not to forget that it was in their hands to bring credit or discredit on their training school, on a great new Nursing Service, the L.C.C., and on the nursing profession as a whole, and if they went abroad, English nursing would be judged by their nursing. She hoped that some would prepare themselves for administrative work. It was not easy work and needed long and varied training and experience, but when they got to the top, she told them not to rest on their laurels, or, rather, on the laurels gained for them by the work, fights and courage of their predecessors. It was due to the nurses who had gone before that they

had many advantages which those predecessors had not. Also they must realise that there was still room for improvement in Hospital administration, both in matters directly affecting patients and matters affecting the staff. She concluded: Visit other hospitals, other countries, talk with lay people who know hospitals as lay people, get to know individual members of your calling and enlist their sympathy and co-operation in reforms. She told those who were still in training to remember Miss Florence Nightingale's words, "Good nursing is made up of doing a number of small things well."

The Matron, Miss E. Fisher, then read the list of those who had gained certificates and prizes during 1932, and thanked the staff for their loyal support and co-operation during the year.

Votes of thanks to the Mayor and to the Chairman, proposed by the Medical Superintendent (Dr. R. H. Swindells) and seconded by Councillor Jones, brought the proceedings to a close. A beautiful bouquet was presented to the Mayoress by a member of the Nursing Staff.

Our sympathy is with the members of the nursing staff of one of our leading provincial nurse training schools who resent the action of two of its members in appearing in the streets of the city wearing trousers, and, after being warned by the Matron that this unbecoming behaviour was inconsistent with the dignity of their profession and of the hospital, ignored the warning and made a second appearance similarly attired. We are not surprised that their resignations were asked for by the hospital authorities, and we understand that these have been tendered.

Just now when the centenary of the Oxford Movement is recalling to our recollection those who took a prominent part in the Anglican Revival, an interesting booklet by Caroline M. Duncan-Jones, entitled "The Anglican Revival in Sussex," is opportune. We refer to it because of the action of a trained nurse who evidently played a worthy part in the protection of the harassed incumbent of St. James's, Brighton. We read: "A stormy petrel of the movement in Brighton was John Purchas. He was a gentle, humble-minded man, a scholar and a poet, but he was sometimes wrong-headed and not always wise.

"For some years Mr. Purchas was curate at St. Paul's under Mr. Wagner. In 1866 he bought St. James's, then a proprietary chapel, and himself became minister. His church was crowded and he had many supporters, but disturbances were frequent and far from edifying. On one occasion Purchas got out of the crush disguised in a nurse's cloak and bonnet, with a respirator over his moustache. The mob outside came provided with bags of flour, red ochre and blue, and pelted the departing worshippers. On another occasion the mob followed Purchas's carriage right to his door in Montpelier Terrace and turned his carriage over."

Well, those days are now over, and Brighton residents and visitors may, if they so desire, worship without distraction in some of the most beautiful churches in the country surrounded by every aid to devotion.

The terrible tragedy of an infant who, through the action of a nurse, was blinded for life by having nitric

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