

NURSING ECHOES.

The Royal Wedding has come and gone, and a right splendid occasion it has proved to be. From the King and Queen to the "man in the street" all played their parts with heartfelt good will. The brilliance and beauty of the passing show was amazing, to say nothing of the dignity and order which reigned supreme. It is at such times that we realise what a privileged people we are and that the inferiority complex is a snare and a delusion.

If the romantic young bride and bridegroom realise half the blessings showered upon them their lives will indeed be passed in paradise!

The name and, we may add, literary fame of Miss Grace Ellison, whose "Authorised Life Story of Princess Marina" we notify in another column, should be well known to English Nurses, although it is now twenty years since she originated the French Flag Nursing Corps, a Corps of thoroughly trained British Nurses to serve under the French War Office in France during the Great War, and whose skilled and devoted services were so greatly appreciated by sick and wounded French soldiers in the numerous military hospitals close behind the lines and also at the base.

Miss Ellison, the adopted niece of Sir Thomas Barclay, educated and long resident in Paris, happened to travel across France in a train with French wounded early in the war. Her kind heart was deeply touched by their sufferings; on arrival in Paris she at once took action—came to England, enlisted the help of nursing and medical experts, and in a few months two hundred and fifty Sisters—English, Scottish, Irish and Canadian were selected for foreign service. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick acted as Hon. Superintendent, and Miss Ellison as active Hon. Secretary in France. This Corps did merciful duty under very difficult conditions—and owed much to Miss Ellison's expert knowledge of French life and language, and her spirited support when difficulties arose. Many of the Sisters were transferred to Health Service at the end of the War and received honourable recognition.

"The Authorised Life Story of Princess Marina" (Duchess of Kent), has been donated by Miss M. Breay to the Royal Mementoes Collection of the British College of Nurses, and we learn it is selling splendidly as a Christmas gift as it is published at the reasonable price of 3s. 6d.

On Wednesday, November 14th, the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service was "At Home" at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W. The afternoon was wet and dull, but the contrast was the greater when one entered the ballroom where the reception was held, where everything was bright and cheerful, and the uniforms of the Sisters provided a vivid note of colour. The recently appointed Matron-in-Chief, Miss Martin, received the guests at the entrance, and gave them a charming welcome. All present, both hostesses and guests appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves. There is always so much to talk of on these occasions by members of the Service who rarely meet otherwise, and the intimacy of the tea-table affords an excellent opportunity for such converse,

while a delightful programme of music was supplied by the R.A.M.C. band.

Amongst the distinguished guests present were the Adjutant-General and Lady Romer, the Permanent Under-Secretary for War and Lady Creedy, the Director-General, Army Medical Services and Mrs. Hartigan, Lady Isobel Gathorne-Hardy, the Dowager Countess of Minto, Lady Fawcus, Lady Leishman, Dame Beryl Oliver, D.B.E., R.R.C., Dame Maud McCarthy, D.B.E., R.R.C., Dame Anne Beadsmore Smith, D.B.E., R.R.C., Miss F. M. Hodgins, C.B.E., R.R.C., Miss Medforth, C.B.E., R.R.C., Dame Elizabeth Oram, D.B.E., Dame Sarah Swift, G.B.E., R.R.C., Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, D.B.E., R.R.C., Dame Joanna Cruickshank, D.B.E., R.R.C., Miss Dowse, R.R.C., Miss G. M. Littleboy, A.R.R.C., Miss M. A. Willcox, A.R.R.C., and others.

To the regret of many, Lady Roberts was prevented by illness from being present.

We are asked by the Matron-in-Chief to draw attention to the vacancy which will shortly occur for a retired member of the Territorial Army Nursing Service to have one of the furnished cottages at Rickmansworth, rent free. It is a delightful opportunity for anyone with the necessary qualifications. The applicant must have small private means, or be in receipt of a pension, and bring a relative or friend to share her home.

Further particulars will be found in our advertisement columns on page i.

The 18th "Birthday Week" of the Imperial Nurses' Club, held from November 24th to 28th, was a very friendly and genial affair. Members, past and present, responded generously to the appeal of the Hon. Secretary to contribute something to the Exchange Fair, and Gifts and Sales produced about £70. Dame Beatrix Lyall spoke on the Sunday afternoon on Loyalty, Service and Devotion, thus giving a new and weighty significance to the familiar letters & s. d. On the actual Birthday itself, Mrs. H. J. Tennant, C.H., J.P., a Vice-President of the Club, paid it a visit and wished it God-speed.

The United Nursing Services Club held its Thirteenth Annual Meeting on Thursday, November 22nd, at 34, Cavendish Square, London, W.1.

The Chairman, Dame Anne Beadsmore Smith, D.B.E., R.R.C., was in the Chair, who, with her characteristic charm, welcomed a representative gathering, expressing especial pleasure that Brig.-General R. H. Moore, C.M.G., C.B.E., had honoured them in being present.

The Meeting of the Shareholders was held in the Club Drawing Room, which was beautifully decorated with flowers, many being the gift of one of its members.

The Chairman presented the Directors' Report and the usual business was transacted.

The General Meeting followed, when the Chairman, Dame Anne Beadsmore Smith, expressed satisfaction that she was able to present a Balance Sheet showing a balance on the right side, in spite of the heavy expenditure on redecoration, repairs and renewals, including complete rewiring of electrical installation, and the loss of income resulting from the closing of the Club in order that the repairs might be carried out, and stating that she felt very much indebted to the Secretary, Miss Steele, for her uncomplaining hard work.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)