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EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, REGISTERED NURSE.

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EDITORIAL.

THE FESTIVAL OF THE FAMILY.

Christmas Day, since that first Christmas at Bethlehem nearly 2,000 years ago, has ever been observed as "the festival of the family" and by none with greater joy than by our King and Queen, who, leaving for awhile their stately homes in London and at Windsor, gather around them their children and grandchildren in the homelier atmosphere of Sandringham House.

But beyond those so near, and so dear, His Majesty's sympathies include all the peoples over whom he has ruled for the last quarter of a century with a wisdom which has never failed through many troubled years, to whom he is bound by an understanding intimacy never before attained between Sovereign and people, and which has evoked that deep-seated loyalty, which on the occasion of the recent Royal marriage found an opportunity for outward expression.

So it came to pass that, following the precedent established two years ago, the King left the family party to deliver His Christmas message to that greater family, the multitude of His subjects in the Dominions and Colonies of His great Empire, and to the peoples of India, as well as to those others in many lands who, in crowded cities, and lonely outposts, were eagerly listening-in to hear their Sovereign's voice. To one and all, with the modesty and simplicity of greatness, His Majesty delivered His Christmas Message.

THE KING'S MESSAGE TO HIS PEOPLE.

"On this Christmas Day I send to all my people everywhere my Christmas greeting. The day with its hallowed memories is the festival of the family.

"I would like to think that you who are listening to me now in whatever part of the world you may be, and all the peoples of this Realm and Empire, are bound to me and to one another by the spirit of one great family.

"The Queen and I were deeply moved by the manner in which this spirit was manifested a month ago at the marriage of our dear son and daughter.

"My desire and hope is that the same spirit may become ever stronger in its hold and wider in its range. The world is still restless and troubled. The clouds are lifting but we have still our own anxieties to meet.

"I am convinced that if we meet them in the spirit of one family we shall overcome them, for then private and party interests will be controlled by care for the whole community.

"It is as members of one family that we shall to-day, and always, remember those other members of it who are suffering from sickness or from the lack of work

and hope; and we shall be ready to do our utmost to befriend them.

"I send a special greeting to the peoples of my Dominions overseas. Through them the family has become a fellowship of free nations, and they have carried into their own homes the memories and traditions of the mother country. With them I bear in my heart to-day the peoples of my far distant Colonies. The bond of the one spirit knows no barriers of space.

"If my voice reaches any of the peoples of India, let it bring the assurance of my constant care for them, and of my desire that they too may ever more fully realise and value their own place in the unity of the one family.

"May I add very simply and sincerely that if I may be regarded as in some true sense the head of this great and widespread family, sharing its life and sustained by its affection, this will be a full reward for the long and sometimes anxious labours of my reign of wellnigh five and twenty years.

"As I sit in my own home I am thinking of the great multitudes who are listening to my voice, whether they be in British homes or in far off regions of the world.

"For you all, and especially for your children, I wish a happy Christmas. I commend you to 'The Father of Whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.'

"God bless you all."

"God bless our King" is the heartfelt response of many thousands of British Nurses.

We look forward to the day when not only the peoples included in the British Empire but all the Nations of the world will be bound together in unity in one great family. In the achievement of this end the nurses of the world, whose work brings them into intimate relations with many people of all classes, whose trusted friends they frequently become, can play an important part. Further, through the International Council of Nurses, contacts and friendships have been established between the Nurses of twenty-nine nationalities, and we have, at the present time, a striking example of the reality of that friendship in the post-graduate Courses for Nurses taking place in London in connection with the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, which include, amongst others, students from Great Britain, France, Germany, Canada, South Africa, the United States of America, and Turkey—countries not long since engaged in deadly strife, who are living together at Florence Nightingale International House in cordial friendliness. It is inevitable that they will return to their respective countries with mutual regard and understanding, and thus become ambassadors of peace and good will.

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