

THE DUCHESS OF KENT AND NURSING IN SCOTLAND.

AT THE ROYAL INFIRMARY EDINBURGH.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, during his visit to Edinburgh as Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, together with the Duchess of Kent, found time between a multiplicity of duties to visit several hospitals and come into touch with the Matrons and members of the Nursing Staff.

The Duke, accompanied by the Duchess, laid the foundation stone of the new Simpson Memorial Maternity Hospital on May 22nd, and the Duchess presented prizes to 26 nurses. The hospital is a department of Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, succeeding the Royal Maternity and Simpson Memorial Hospital in Lauriston Place, which has been taken over by the Infirmary, and it is being erected on the site immediately to the west of the Infirmary buildings. Their Royal Highnesses were received by the Lord and Lady Provost, and amongst others by the Lady Superintendent, Miss E. D. Smaill.

Bright sunshine, gay bunting, and two groups of happy nurses deprived the occasion of any stiff formality.

His Royal Highness, in a speech at the beginning of the proceedings, said that that was a great day in the life of the Infirmary. "The maternity hospital, of which I am about to lay the foundation stone, is indeed a great tribute," he said, "to the name of one who has done so much to lessen human suffering—Sir James Young Simpson.

"People are beginning to realise the vast importance of maternal wellbeing, and in the last few years much devoted work has been done.

"The name of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh is, indeed, a household word throughout Scotland, and so I am certain that the work of this new hospital will be carried on in the spirit that has made this institution so great in the past.

"The Duchess, I know," continued His Royal Highness, "is very pleased to be with me to-day to present the prizes to the members of the nursing staff. We should both like to congratulate the prizewinners and at the same time offer a word of encouragement to

those who have not been so fortunate, as everyone appreciates how very hard all the nurses work.

"I am very glad to learn that there is to be a second part of this extension scheme that is to take the form of a nurses' home to accommodate 300 nurses."

Sir Thomas Whitson then asked the Duchess of Kent to present prizes to those of the nurses who had excelled in conduct and examination during their training. The need for highly educated nurses for administrative posts, as teachers, as public health workers, had now been recognised for some time, he said, and the managers of the Royal Infirmary desired to give to nurses all the stimulus they could to study.

A bouquet of lily-of-the-valley and heather, bound with Royal Stuart tartan, was handed by Sister Macpherson, the senior sister, to Her Royal Highness, who then presented the prizes. Nurse Catherine A. Law, from the Isle of Arran, received the main award, the Affleck medal, which is provided out of funds left by the late Sir James Affleck, and given for distinction in nursing on the basis of the highest total marks gained by a student during the year for work in the wards, examinations, and general efficiency, and conduct.

Proposing a vote of thanks to Her Royal Highness, Lady Susan Gilmour said that the presentation of



Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent presenting a Prize to Nurse Catherine A. Law, who won the Affleck Medal, at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

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