

prizes was always a red-letter day in the annals of the Royal Infirmary, but this year the fortunate recipients would be doubly envied on having received their awards at the hands of Her Royal Highness.

DEACONESS HOSPITAL, PLEASANCE, EDINBURGH.

On May 23rd, a visit was paid by the Duke and Duchess of Kent to the Church of Scotland Deaconess Hospital, 142-144, Pleasance, Edinburgh, for the unveiling of a plaque in memory of Lord Sands, D.D., a former Chairman. Their Royal Highnesses were received by Mr. J. A. S. Miller, M.V.O., W.S., Chairman of the Board, Miss E. MacGregor, Lady Superintendent, and other officers.

In his speech, the Duke of Kent said: "I am delighted to be able to visit the hospital, and the Duchess and I wish all the patients what they most desire—a speedy recovery to health and strength."

After a tour of the hospital wards, the Duchess presented prizes to the nurses in a very gracious manner, proving sincere interest in their work of healing. During the following week, hospitals in Glasgow and Leith were honoured by visits from the Duke and Duchess, who could not fail to realise the splendid organisation of the leading Scottish hospitals and the first class facilities provided for the training of nurses.

Scottish women have long enjoyed the reputation of possessing those vocational attributes required for a profession exacting very high standards of moral rectitude and sweetness of touch—in its association with humanity.

All the world over, Scottish nurses are realised as a valuable link in the promotion of public health and in the care of the sick, and it is well that our Royal Ladies should come into touch with them and evince sympathy with their very arduous work for the uplift of human conditions. Skilled nursing is a very real national asset.

THE NEW MINISTER OF HEALTH.

We are of opinion that the Nursing Profession may congratulate itself upon the appointment of Sir Kingsley Wood, recently a brilliant Postmaster-General, as the new Minister of Health, as the position entitles him to certain powers under the Nurses' Registration Act.

The Nursing Profession owes Sir Kingsley Wood gratitude for the understanding manner in which he helped Dr. Addison in 1919 to carry the Nurses' Registration Bill through its Committee Stage in the House of Commons, and the support he gave to the principle of providing an independent General Nursing Council as the Governing Body of the Nursing Profession, constituted by the Act.

Sir Kingsley Wood goes to the Ministry of Health with some knowledge of Nursing principles and politics; it is therefore a relief to know that should Registered Nurses have cause to appeal to his judgment he will understand their point of view, and will not treat their considered opinion with contempt—a course which has aroused a sense of injury upon more than one occasion since the Act was in force.

NURSING ECHOES.

A selected number of Nurses have been honoured by the King, His Majesty having presented to them the beautiful "Silver Jubilee Medal." The Medal is issued from Buckingham Palace with the following instruction: "By Command of His Majesty the King the accompanying Medal is forwarded to _____ to be worn in commemoration of Their Majesty's Silver Jubilee." This Medal is to be regarded as a personal souvenir from the King as a recognition of long and distinguished service during his reign by selected members of the Crown and other services in this country and the Empire. The recipients will include persons engaged in nursing, health, and ambulance work.

The medal is a beautiful work of art, on the obverse side of which appear the crowned heads of the King and Queen, with appropriate inscriptions and dates.

The Medal is suspended on a rich crimson ribbon edged with blue and white, and a bow of the same is added for the use of ladies.

Altogether a very charming Royal Souvenir, which will be worn with gratification by those to whom His Majesty has graciously presented it. We congratulate those of our colleagues thus distinguished.

We hope members of the Nursing profession are securing mementoes of the glorious Jubilee of King George V. Publishers have excelled themselves in putting out magnificent souvenirs of Empire. The King's Jubilee speeches are issued as a permanent souvenir by the officials of King George's Jubilee Trust, and as it costs but 2s. bound in cream cloth embossed with the Royal Coat of Arms, and contains the Poet Laureate's "Prayer for the King's Majesty," let us in loyalty secure a copy to benefit the Fund. A future generation will love to possess it.

The Quetta earthquake and its after horrors came as a shock to England in the midst of the Jubilee rejoicings. What a contrast! We nurses have always this consolation in disaster, that we can be of use. Thus as we realise that in one hospital 200 out of 300 patients were killed, the poor shocked sufferers who survive become our charge. Relief trains from Karachi and elsewhere filled with doctors and nurses and food and medical supplies were dispatched to the devastated area without delay, where fires and floods have added to the death roll. Unofficial estimates put the total of killed and injured at 30,000. One aeroplane belonging to the Viceroy flew from Lahore with Army nurses. Everything possible is being done to prevent plague and cholera, all the dead being cremated and buried as quickly as possible. The Royal Air Force played a prominent part in the rescue and relief work, and the military authorities sent out an urgent appeal for more Red Cross units. The British soldier has proved a hero as ever. The achievements in the hospitals and relief centres have been made possible through the extraordinary work done by British women. Many without previous hospital experience entered the crude hospitals and stood beside the operating tables when cases of the most appalling kind were undertaken. We know that everything possible will be done for the care of the living. The healing of heartbreak needs time.

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