

THE EARL OF MACDUFF.

COMING OF AGE CELEBRATIONS.

We are inserting this week the photograph of the young Earl of Macduff in his cadet's uniform. As our Members are aware, Lord Macduff is the only son of the President of the Association, Princess Arthur of Connaught, R.R.C., S.R.N., who is Duchess of Fife in her own right. In front of her beautiful highland home, set among the pine-clad hills, an interesting ceremony took place to mark the coming of age of the heir to the Deeside estates and to the Fife estates in Banffshire. The Earl actually reached his majority on August 9th last, but on that date he was with his regiment, the Scots Greys. Hence it was decided to defer certain presentations and celebrations of good will until he could come to Mar, and on September 18th, it was a large company of kilted clansmen, tenantry, and friends that gathered at Mar Lodge to offer good wishes to the young laird, who is so popular both in Deeside and among the tenantry at Banff. The Duff tartan was, of course, much in evidence, and the pipe band of the Braemar Royal Highland Society played stirring Highland music, commencing with one of the marches of the Duff Highlanders.

Mr. Hosie (Commissioner of the Fife estates) presided, and he said that it was fitting that a company such as this should come together to do honour to the Earl of Macduff, heir to the historic Fife estates. He expressed the pleasure that it gave to all of those who had assembled at Mar Lodge that afternoon, to be there by the invitation of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught. On behalf of the tenantry, Mr. Stanley Bond, Braemar Castle, presented to Lord Macduff a fine rifle in a case, and a gold wristlet

watch, saying that he hoped that the young Earl would take an interest in his estates, where he could have deer stalking to his heart's content in the magnificent Forest of Mar, which had been the pride of his grandfather. The good wishes of Banff were conveyed to the Earl by Provost Christie, and he presented an illuminated address, signed by the Provost, Magistrates and Town Councillors of Banff; this address expressed the attachment of the citizens of Banff to the ancient House of Fife. The loyalty and affection of Fife-Keith were voiced by Mr. Taylor, who called upon Mr. Anderson to present its gifts, and, in handing to Lord

Macduff a case of pipes and a table lighter, Mr. Anderson said that, although the village of Fife-Keith represented but a small community, and one not rich in the world's goods, it was yet a community very rich indeed in good will to the House of Fife; one very proud, too, of the individuality that the name of Fife gave to it—the Fife-Keith people had lost none of the enthusiasm that their forefathers had felt for the Fife family. Next Mr. Grant, the oldest employee on the Mar estate, stepped forward, looking exceedingly handsome in his highland dress of Duff tartan; he presented to the Earl a shepherd's crook and a telescope from those employed on the Mar estates, and then Mr. Braid presented a silver inkstand and pen from the staff

of the estate's office at Banff. Apologies for absence were received from Members of the Macduff Town Council; they had presented an address of congratulation from the town of Macduff on August 9th.

The Earl of Macduff expressed his thanks for the beautiful gifts which he had received, and for all the kind words that had been spoken. He would always value the memory of these words and treasure the gifts and address. Prince Arthur also spoke, saying that both he and his wife had been much touched by the spontaneous welcome extended to their son. The guests were entertained to tea in the ballroom later, and although, except during the ceremony connected with the presentations, the sun had, for the most part, refused to shine, and the lovely hills of Mar were hidden in mist, the assembled company felt that they had passed a memorable afternoon and it was generally conceded that "the young Laird" had appeared really gratified by the warmth of the welcome extended to him.

On August 9th last the good wishes of the Royal British Nurses' Association were telegraphed

to Lord Macduff, and a very cordial message of thanks came from him in reply.

We offer to Her Royal Highness the President of the Association on the coming of age, under the happiest circumstances, of her only son, to whom naturally, with every mother, such an occasion must be one of great joy.

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London, S.W.7.

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.



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Only Son of H.R.H. The President Royal British
Nurses' Association.

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