

NURSING ECHOES.

The Report of the recent Annual Meeting of the N.C.N. fills 19 columns of space in this issue, proof of its widely extended activities. May we hope that every Delegate on the Grand Council will study it and realise her responsibility in this Parliament of Nurses. Its status as a consultative body constitutes its special value, and the impetus to give, rather than to take, in these material times is the basis of its success.

We shall need all the help that can be brought to the organisation of the International Congress, July, 1937, concerning which official information will appear in this Journal throughout the year.

The Regulations approved by the Grand Council for the award of Florence Nightingale Scholarships will be found on the back page of the cover.

The Duchess of Kent fulfilled her first public engagement since the birth of her son by attending a bazaar in aid of the new nurses' home and private wing of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, Euston Road.

The Duchess was received by a guard of honour of sisters and nurses from the hospital. During her visit, which lasted about 20 minutes, she made a number of purchases.

The Crown Princess of Italy, formerly charming little Princess Marie José of Belgium, who was with us during the Great War, is now taking a deep interest in the sick and wounded Italian soldiers being returned on hospital ships from the Abyssinian Front. The Princess wears nurse's uniform and meets the hospital ships at Naples, thus giving all the help she can to those who have suffered for their country in a campaign which entails the greatest self-sacrifice. The Queen has given her wedding ring, and the King's daughters are contributing gold and silver ornaments and coins to the Italian Treasury. Alas! those of us who love Italy are longing for an Armistice Day.

On Wednesday, November 13th, in the courtyard of St. Thomas's Hospital, the first mobile hospital unit of the British Ambulance Service in Ethiopia, organised by the British Red Cross Society, was dedicated and blessed by the Archbishop of Canterbury who has taken so much interest in its formation. His Grace explained that it was hoped this would only be the first unit. It is equipped for major operative surgery and is in charge of Mr. A. J. Melley, a London surgeon. It consists of an adjutant, five medical officers, three transport officers, N.C.O.s, and men, together with 16 transport lorries and equipment. When it arrives at Berbera it will be joined by 24 trained African dressers before proceeding to the Ogaden war zone.

The unit sailed from King George V. Dock on the following Saturday, but Mr. Melley was unable to accompany it as some arrangements had still to be completed, he hoped, however, to travel overland, and join the unit at Marseilles. News of it will be watched for and followed with interest and sympathy, by trained nurses who realise the horrors entailed by war, and welcome this effort to mitigate the sufferings of the sick and wounded in Ethiopia. They wish indeed that some of their number might have been included in the unit, for our ses have proved their right and competence to share

the danger of such an expedition, and that they would increase its efficiency is undoubted.

We have to thank Mrs. Faith J. Whitehead for the extracts from the Address of His Holiness the Pope to the Congress of Catholic Nurses held in Rome. Mrs. Whitehead is a sister of the late Miss Dorothy Snell, Directrice of the Scuola Convitto Regina Elena attached to the Policlinico Hospital in Rome, whose life's work of beautiful service for nursing in Italy was so greatly valued by her colleagues in England. Mrs. Whitehead writes: "I should be glad, and I am sure she would be, if you would print this short résumé of the Address."

We have great pleasure in complying with this request, Dorothy Snell having been a life-long friend still held in warm affection and admiration by the Editor.

In the beautiful drawing-room of the United Nursing Services Club, Ltd., 34, Cavendish Square, London, W., the Annual Meeting took place on November 22nd.

Dame Ann Beadsmore Smith was in the chair, and presented for the tenth year in succession the Report and Balance Sheet. She was supported by the other Directors, Miss Bushby, Miss Dempster, Miss Redpath, Dame Elizabeth Oram and Captain Burleigh.

The Report and Balance Sheet showing substantial increased profits, which reflected great credit on the Secretary, Miss Steele, and her staff made very pleasant reading, and shareholders will receive a welcome dividend of 5 per cent. free of income tax.

Captain Burleigh referred to the Club's strong and sound financial position, with a creditable sum invested in gilt-edged securities which at the present time is of paramount importance, as the Directors have obtained the option over adjoining property for the much-needed extension of the building for more bedrooms, enlarged dining room and lounge.

This announcement met with great applause from the members, who had long realised the need of more accommodation.

The business ended with hearty votes of thanks to the Chairman, Committees, Secretary and staff, and all present recorded their appreciation and continued confidence. Then came the moment for amusement, which was supplied by a well-known raconteuse in the person of Miss Helen Mar, who regaled those present with a well-told store of funny stories, which, judging by the peals of laughter which followed, caused much amusement and left no doubt as to the artist's ability.

A dainty tea was served and much enjoyed by all present.

The Imperial Nurses' Club, 137, Ebury Street, S.W., kept its "Birthday Week" from November 23rd, to 27th, and each day provided excellent music whereby to entertain the members and friends who came to the Sale. Both the Queen and the Princess Royal had sent gifts to the latter and over £50 was realised. An address was given on Sunday afternoon, by Mr. McAdam Eccles, M.S., F.R.C.S., on "Things New and Old," taking his illustrations from things natural, scientific and spiritual. He easily held the attention of his hearers from start to finish.

We hope that the friends of the Club will note that it is largely to this Birthday Sale that the management

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)