

NURSING IN WAR.

The Press has given very little news of the work under the Red Cross in the Spanish Civil War, so that we may surmise that ambulance and nursing work is of a very restricted nature. It is to be feared that the use of bombs and poison gas now considered justifiable in War may drive the Red Cross out of action as was done in Abyssinia—as War becomes more mechanical and less human as of yore, the work of the Red Cross in the field becomes more and more dangerous to the attendants—and less and less helpful to the wounded—and women nurses rather an encumbrance than a help.

As usual people from afar give generously to ambulance funds.

The International Red Cross Committee has received 400,000 pesetas from the Spanish Patriotic Association in Buenos Aires for the purchase of medical supplies to be divided equally between the two conflicting forces in Spain.

Dr. Junod, of the International Red Cross at Geneva, is apparently the hero of the Red Cross in Spain, he has done some fine work for the wounded, and in helping women and children prisoners, and we are proud to learn that British ships are as usual in the front rank of rescue.

The refugees evacuated in British ships from the northern area of the east coast of Spain and the Balearic Isles number 6,132. This number includes 2,023 British subjects.

The Scottish Ambulance Unit in Spain to which Miss Jacobsen is attached has operated mainly with the Government supporters and is in need of money to carry on its work. Sir Daniel Stevenson claims that the Scottish Ambulance Unit gives its services impartially, but as a military ambulance must needs serve the Army to which it is attached, those who are in sympathy with the Nationalists must send help through other sources.

THE POPPY DAY REPORT.

Four thousand honorary organising committees in the United Kingdom and oversea countries prepared for Poppy Day, November 11th, in aid of Lord Haig's British Legion Appeal. An effort was made to collect, if possible, a larger amount than the record total realised last year.

The Poppy Day Report for 1935, which is now published, states that upwards of 325,000 volunteers give their services annually as poppy sellers. Last year the Remembrance Day Appeal produced the record gross total of £527,302, which exceeded the 1934 figure by £21,674 and the previous highest collection by £2,652. The combined totals for the fifteen years in which poppies have now been sold are as follows: England, Ireland, Wales and oversea, £5,956,889; and Scotland, £969,047.

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Air Raid Precautions Reserve.

The British Red Cross Society, at the request of the Home Office, is preparing to enrol an Air Raid Precautions Reserve, to consist of men and women drawn from the public, qualified by the possession of the Society's Certificate in First Aid in Chemical Warfare, such persons to serve in connection with Air Raid Precautions duties with a Detachment of the Society. Their instruction will be designed to meet the requirements of the work the individuals will be called on to carry out, which may differ from that of fully-trained Detachment members.

Anyone desiring further particulars is invited to apply to The British Red Cross Society, 14, Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

King Edward VIII has opened his first Parliament with great dignity—a scene of brilliant pageantry. Long may he reign!

The King's decision to perform the formal opening of the New People's Palace in the Mile End Road on Saturday, December 12th, has given great satisfaction in the East End.

There has always been a close association between the Royal House and the great East End social movement, for the original Palace was opened by Queen Victoria in 1887 and enjoyed her active support, as it did that of King Edward VII.

The old building was destroyed by fire in February, 1931, and for some time there was a doubt as to whether it would be rebuilt. As the result of a petition signed by the leading citizens of East London asking for its restoration, the Charity Commissioners formulated a new scheme costing £140,000. The Lord Mayor of London laid the foundation stone of the new building last March, when he launched a public appeal for £60,000, the balance required to complete the scheme.

Since Queen Mary has taken up residence at Marlborough House, Marlborough Gate and "round the corner" has come to life—note the crisp white blinds and pretty blue and grey curtains which now enliven the windows of the domestic quarters. In one window in a blue and silver cage a chirpy canary was hopping around. A little touch of home.

We all love souvenirs and the Coronation will enable us to acquire them in great variety. The Goldsmiths' Company will hold a competition for trophies and souvenirs to commemorate the great event. Lovely bits of silver will be on sale for encouraging general craftsmanship as distinct from specialisation.

Then the kilns are busy turning out lovely specimens of porcelain and pottery on which the King's portrait, coat of arms and residences of State will appear. Commemoration mugs, jugs and tea services will be on sale—and the sooner the better for those of us who revere such Royal mementoes.

It is officially announced that the marriage of Princess Juliana and Prince Bernhard von Lippe-Biesterfeld will be on January 7th, in the Jacob Church at The Hague. The registration of the marriage will take place on December 19th. In the meantime the necessary Bills, including that for the naturalisation of Prince Bernhard, have been put before Parliament.

The future Queen of the Netherlands is well known in England, and will have all our kind wishes for her future happiness. To judge from the smiling faces of the lovers, there is little doubt that the marriage is one of affection.

The Open Door Council, 4, Iddesleigh House, Caxton Street, London, S.W.1, draws attention to a statement in the Press that the Factory Bill, to be introduced in the present Session of Parliament, is to contain a new statutory limitation of the working hours of women and young persons. The Council points out that nothing can be more lowering to the status of women than to classify them with young persons. It was in 1842, when women were unfranchised and totally unorganised that women were first included with young persons in industrial legislation in the category of "protected persons." Measures which may have seemed suitable 94 years ago for women whose status was that of the non-adult must appear entirely inappropriate and out-of-date when women have been enfranchised for 18 years. The Council therefore invites women's organisations to emphasise to the Government that the British woman citizen is still classed with the young person, and to request that she now be treated as an adult.

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