

NURSING ECHOES.

Queen's Nurses had a wonderful day when 2,300 of them assembled on June 16th during their Jubilee celebrations in the garden of Buckingham Palace for review by their Patron, Queen Mary. It was a perfect day and the nurses who were privileged to attend this gathering appreciated the honour to the full. The Members of the Council of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, including Dame Rosalind Paget, Miss Wilmshurst, General Superintendent, Miss Peterkin, late General Superintendent, and Miss Lowe, Secretary, were also there when Her Majesty appeared, attended by the Dowager Countess of Airlie and Capt. Arthur Paget and was greeted with cheers by the assembled nurses.

Miss Wilmshurst writes: "We had a wonderful day, in fine weather, and were all so appreciative of the gracious way in which we were received by Queen Mary."

An interesting part of the proceedings was the presentation of Long Service Badges to the following Superintendents and Queen's Nurses. Each of the recipients went up the steps on to the terrace in turn to receive her Long Service Badge from Queen Mary. The following are the names of those so honoured:—

Superintendents:—Miss Margaret Dennis Jones, Miss Isabel M. Eacott, Miss Mary F. Ronchetti, Miss Gertrude Trotter.

Assistant Superintendent:—Miss Mary Crosse.

Senior Nurse:—Miss Margaret B. Clarke.

Queen's Nurses:—Miss Isabella E. Bennett, Miss Annie Byrne, Miss Mary D. Carrick.

Formerly Queen's Nurse:—Miss Margaret D. Clarke.

Queen's Nurses:—Miss Annie R. Crawford, Miss Cecilia J. Dillon, Miss Florence M. Gilmartin, Miss Ethel M. Jeary, Miss Edith E. Kaye, Miss Annie McGeoghegan, Miss Bridie McHale, Mrs. Martha M. McIntosh, Miss Louisa M. Mooney, Miss Norah O'Leary, Miss Elizabeth E. Pritchard, Miss Winifred M. Smith, Miss Emily A. Stacey, Miss May H. B. Ward, Miss Charlotte C. Wright.

After the inspection the nurses had tea at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster—a tea given by the Queen's Institute, worthy of the occasion.

A memorable day, indeed.

Ten years ago the late Miss Beatrice Kent wrote a convincing article on "Prisons and Prisoners in England," which appeared in *Hospital Social Service*, and which was published in leaflet form. Having a kind nature, she advocates an environment for prisoners calculated to inspire them with a longing for higher things—of the nursing of prisoners—only the best is good enough for these degraded beings. How delighted she was to know of a Prison Service of Registered Nurses, such as is provided by enlightened Governors in Holloway Prison for Women, who are also required to hold the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

"The problem of mental defectives is always with us," she writes. "There are certain to be, in every prison, many mental defectives of both sexes. If their conduct does not bring them within the scope of the Mental Deficiency Act, they suffer for their offences in prisons, where they ought not to be. They ought to be in homes for mental cases, but such establish-

ments should bear a name of greater euphony. Unfortunately, our civilisation has not yet reached that altitude. Such unfortunates are, of course, continually in and out of prisons."

Beatrice Kent has praise for all the agents of prison reform—the Howard League, the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, the Church Army—the fine work done by women governors of Women's Prisons, profound women with penetrating minds suitable to be the heads of "Hospitals for Sick Minds."

Possibly we all need to have our imaginations quickened and our hearts stirred and to remind ourselves of those unforgettable words—"I was in prison and ye came unto me"—which to the thoughtful and imaginative mind, constitute a Divine command.

As an enthusiastic newspaper woman, we noted the recent speech in the House of Commons, of the new Home Secretary, Sir Samuel S. Hoare (whose great aunt was Elizabeth Fry), on the Vote for Prisons.

Sir Samuel Hoare said: "For many years past he had taken, not unnaturally, a great interest in the doings of his family predecessors, particularly in the career of that very remarkable woman Elizabeth Fry. Her great work, great as it was in relieving the actual sufferings of prisoners, was chiefly in concentrating public opinion upon a number of urgent questions of social reform. Hitherto there had been no interest in the many questions connected with the treatment of prisoners, and, just as some years later Florence Nightingale concentrated the attention of the country upon the scandals in the nursing service, so Elizabeth Fry, more than a century ago, concentrated the attention of the country upon the scandals in the prison service.

At that time the chief enemy of prison reform was not the brutality or the cruelty of the people of the time so much as their ignorance. Nobody knew what was going on. The trouble there was inside the prisons. The move for reform came from outside the prisons.

We still had to fight against this enemy of ignorance, and to-day the enemy was not so much inside the prisons, for the most progressive reformers were connected with the actual administration of the prisons nowadays, but the ignorance of the general public outside, and on that account he welcomed the opportunity which this Vote gave to the Committee for discussing these questions and doing what they could to dispel the ignorance which was the chief enemy of further reform."

From his humane and enlightened speech, it is evident that prison problems will receive serious and sympathetic consideration from the new Home Secretary—Training Schools for Prison Officers, the Problem of the Young Offender, Prison Construction, Prison Administration, the Moral and Physical Standards of Prisoners, Changes in the Law, Need for Remand Centres, Water and Food Supplies, The Silence System, Prison Buildings, Approved Schools, Work of Juvenile Courts, Recreation, Paid Work, the Care of the Sick. What a chance for the economist and the psychologist! What a sphere for the exercise of the special attributes of women—and for the ministrations of the Registered Nurse.

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