

QUEEN ELISABETH OF BELGIUM SENDS WARMEST THANKS TO MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Before Queen Elisabeth of Belgium terminated her recent short visit to England, the following letter was sent upon Her Majesty's behalf by the Count de Grunne to the President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

Ambassade De Belgique,
December 12th, 1937.

Dear Mrs. Fenwick,

Queen Elisabeth was deeply touched by your charming thought in sending her the lovely hyacinths on behalf of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

I am asked to express to you Her Majesty's warmest thanks and to beg you to convey the same to the members of the Council. Queen Elisabeth also keeps a lively souvenir of your visit to Laeken.

Believe me, dear Mrs. Fenwick,
Yours sincerely,

G. de Grunne.

Those members of our National Council who had the honour of being received by Queen Elisabeth of Belgium at the Palace of Laeken in 1933, will never forget the Garden of Roses, nor its gracious Chatelaine.

A letter has been sent to Her Majesty, informing her that her "warmest thanks" have been received with much pleasure.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE RESERVE.

The Matron-in-Chief wishes to remind the members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Permanent Reserve that their annual reports should be sent in during the month of January, and takes this opportunity of wishing all members a very happy year.

The War Office announces that the following have recently been appointed members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve:—

Miss *Training School.*

- E. K. A. Arkwright, Derbyshire Royal Infirmary.
- C. M. Stonehouse, St. Thomas's Hospital, S.E.1.
- E. E. Seager, St. Thomas's Hospital, S.E.1.
- D. G. E. Ayres, Middlesex Hospital, W.1.
- I. F. Bussell, Middlesex Hospital, W.1.
- M. H. Turton, Middlesex Hospital, W.1.
- A. M. Sidebotham, Middlesex Hospital, W.1.
- C. E. Taylor, Middlesex Hospital, W.1.
- P. B. Rokes, Middlesex Hospital, W.1.
- M. Diggle, Middlesex Hospital, W.1.
- E. E. Prime, Middlesex Hospital, W.1.
- J. C. Wightman, St. Andrew's Hospital, E.3.
- A. Miles, Bermondsey Infirmary, S.E.
- E. Hague, City General Hospital, Sheffield.
- C. F. Foster, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow.
- E. O. Davies, King's College Hospital, S.E.5.
- J. E. F. Skinner, King's College Hospital, S.E.5.
- E. H. Holloway, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.1.
- R. Barton, Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool.
- I. Winter, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.
- M. P. Osborn, Southend General Hospital.

THE STATE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.*

The Annual Report of Sir Arthur MacNalty (Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health for 1936 to the Right Hon. Sir Kingsley Wood, M.P.), recently published, covers a large amount of ground, beginning with a brief review on the Progress in National Health and in Medicine in the Past Hundred Years. "The reign of Queen Victoria witnessed the setting up of a Central Health Authority, which, first as a General Board of Health, then as a Department of the Privy Council, and finally as the Local Government Board, steadily increased the scope of its sanitary authority."

"The British public in the Victorian age read novels with a purpose, and it was through the books of four novelists—Charles Dickens, Lord Beaconsfield, Charles Kingsley and Mrs. Gaskell—that the public conscience was impressed and stirred to support health and industrial reform. Preventive medicine owes these writers a great debt of gratitude.

"Lord Beaconsfield's novel, *Sybil*, not only gave an impulse to factory legislation by its account of child slavery in mines, but also depicted the hard lot of the agricultural labourer in the 'forties.

"Lord Beaconsfield was exceptionally happy in that he was enabled by his pen to impress upon the nation the importance of public health reform, and subsequently to achieve it as Prime Minister. His Government, in 1875, passed the great Public Health Act, the *Magna Carta* of Public Health as it has been termed, which consolidated all the previous sanitary enactments into a great sanitary code."

"In *Martin Chuzzlewit*, Charles Dickens drew two figures of comedy, Sairey Gamp and Betsy Prig, and in doing so he laughed out of life their foul prototypes, and gave an impulse to the work of Florence Nightingale in building up an educated and trained nursing profession. He struck a mighty blow against slum property and putrescent burial grounds in *Bleak House*.

"Many enfranchised persons, high and low, rich and poor, read these novels, and voted at the next election for health reform."

"During the reign of King Edward VII (1901-10), further progress was made. The introduction of the School Medical Service in 1907, the Children Act of 1908, and other reforms of an administrative type are illustrations. King Edward's vivid personal interest in means of improving public health and relieving suffering, of which King Edward's Hospital Fund is a permanent memorial, was an important factor. . . . It is not too much to say that the present generation's success in handling many of the problems of tuberculosis derives from King Edward's interest in anti-tuberculosis measures."

In the early years of King George V's reign, the prevention of disease assumed a leading part in the framing of national policy. Now the sphere of prevention was widened and the State made special provision for the medical treatment of the worker as well as for the necessitous poor. The first important departure was the National Insurance Act of 1911, followed by the appointment of the Medical Research Council, and the appointment, in 1912, of a Departmental Committee which surveyed the whole field of tuberculosis, the recommendations of which initiated a new co-ordination of public health services.

Through the Child Welfare and the School Services, the

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)