

## OUR KING AND QUEEN IN FRANCE.

### THE PASSION OF DOMICILE.

After such an epoch-making event as the recent visit of our King and Queen to France, it would appear that all that can be recorded has been inserted by the world's Press. Yet it is not so; an historic event inspiring such genius, joy, grace, beauty, honour and glory, the cordiality of welcome on the one part, and the sincere appreciation of their affectionate reception by the Royal guests on the other, we, as a sincere and life-long lover of France, feel impelled to record and to add an expression of thanks on the part of the profession to which we belong, which through its great International Council of Nurses, was recently accorded recognition with such marked courtesy by its President, M. Lebrun.

For close on half a century this Journal has recorded significant events for the benefit of generations of nurses to come. The slogan, when uncertainty arises, "You will find it in the *B.J.N.*," is recognition we would jealously preserve.

Not that we can add to the eulogistic reports of this significant event which have appeared.

Our King and Queen visited France as the honoured guests of the French

nation, and in Paris, where a most magnificent reception awaited them, took part in scenes of glory reminiscent of *Le Roi Soleil*, and as a diplomat observed, "To-day, France is a monarchy again." It was more than that, we read. "One of the most remarkable things was the spontaneity of the reception given their Majesties by the ordinary people who had no official part to play, the peasants in the fields who stood to see them pass, the crowds of all ages who thronged the streets and waited for hours for a glimpse of them. It was not only the charm and graciousness of their Majesties which won their hearts, but also the fact that all the people realised the importance of the visit in a troubled Europe. France has

shown herself to the world as united on the question of the Anglo-French *entente*."

And the patriotism of the French people, soil of its soil, was the well-spring of the acclaim.

The waving of flags, the glinting of fountains, the triumph of trumpets, the solemn tramp of destiny, kings, queens, and political potentates, play their part, but it was the passion of domicile by which the French people were swayed. France might again be menaced, their birthright defaced, this King and Queen of a powerful people also loved their fair land. Honour to whom honour is due. That is how we interpret this amazing unanimity on an occasion, as we have said, of epoch-making significance.

"Never, since the Armistice and the fêtes of the Victory have we seen Paris stirred by such a unanimous move-

ment of affection and joy," writes an eyewitness in *The Times*.

During the three days Their Majesties were in Paris the City of Light was *en fête*, and our King, in magnificent uniforms, yet a beneficent and dignified presence, our Queen the perfection of youthful charm—gowned always in white with exquisite gems, pearls by day, and magnificent diamonds by night, made a direct appeal to a people whose cultivated taste is unerring. Sim-



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THE FRENCH PRESIDENT, M. LEBRUN, WELCOMING OUR KING AND QUEEN IN PARIS.

licity the keynote of both characters—courtesy—consideration for others, and power to appreciate all the beauty, of glamour, of marvellous visions presented, of mingled past and present glories, the welcome of the official procession in the Champs Elysées, the splendour of the escort, the fine discipline of the troops, the first notes of "God Save the King," every head bared and every man standing to attention, every heart thrilled.

Then the exquisite art—a French attribute, of course—of the preparations at the Quai d'Orsay Palace, where the Queen was invested by President Lebrun with the Ribbon and Insignia of the Grand Cordon of the Legion of Honour—the only other woman who has been thus specially honoured is Queen Elisabeth of Belgium.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)