

NURSING ECHOES.

It is universally recognised that to our Queen we owe special gratitude for her untiring devotion to duty during the week of special anxiety through which the Nation passed when consultations between Rulers held war in the balance. Queen Elizabeth came down from Balmoral Castle to London to take her place at the King's side, she went alone to Glasgow to launch the new Cunard White Star liner *Queen Elizabeth* at Clydebank, where she delivered a message to the Nation from the King with beautiful and touching emphasis. Her Majesty said:—

"The King bids the people of this country to be of good cheer, in spite of the dark clouds hanging over them, and, indeed, over the whole world.

"He knows well that, as ever before in critical times, they will keep cool heads and brave hearts.

"He knows, too, that they will place entire confidence in their leaders, who, under God's providence, are striving their utmost to find a just and peaceful solution of the grave problems which confront them."

Once again to Balmoral on duty and again the long journey to London to be with the King, the bright support she is acknowledged to be.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent will be present at the Hospital ball at the Bath Assembly Rooms, on October 18th. The ball, which is in connection with the reopening of the historic Assembly Rooms, is in aid of the rebuilding fund of the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases.

The Duchess will watch an eighteenth century episode during which famous bygone visitors to Bath will appear.

The very deep affection which exists between the Duchess and her two sisters resident in the Balkans is no doubt a cause of deep anxiety to her in these troublous times.

The report of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing on the nursing of notifiable and other diseases connected with Public Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Authorities in England and Wales, nursed under the Queen's Institute, shows that the total number of cases nursed during 1937 was 82,027 and the visits paid 1,119,840, an increase of 12,341 cases, and 92,688 visits, over 1936. This is mainly accounted for by double the number of influenza cases and 6,680 more children having been attended. There has also been

an increase of 1,500 pneumonia cases, many of which were associated with influenza and account largely for the rise in mortality from this illness, being 15.8 per cent. to 17 per cent. in England and Wales, the highest being in English rural districts and the lowest in London.

Fewer cases of tuberculosis were attended, and in two years the number has dropped by 200. This corresponds with the general decrease of the incidence of this disease, but may also be attributed to the increasing recognition of the fact that this should not generally be nursed at home unless the conditions are unusually favourable. The highest mortality from tuberculosis was in Wales.

Cases of abortion have, for the first time, been separated in the report from complications of pregnancy.

Of the 3,222 cases attended 83 per cent. were nursed to convalescence at home, 14.7 per cent. were removed to hospital and only .1 per cent. proved fatal.

The number of these cases affords food for thought, for it far from represents the total number of cases of abortion in England and Wales during 1937.

Built at a cost of £80,000, the new hostel for 300 nurses on the staff of St. Luke's municipal hospital, Bradford, was recently opened by the Princess Royal. Each nurse will have her own bedroom, fitted with hot and cold water, and there are sitting-rooms, a dining-room, reading-room and library.

There is also a room set apart for the nurses for smoking. This should prevent the danger of smoking in bed.

M. G. Robinson writes in *The Times* on the matter of V.A.D. uniform as follows:—

"The British Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachments have progressed in very many ways. Why does the uniform of the women nursing members remain unperfected? The indoor uniform is pretty for a parade on a sunny day. Those who wore it in the military hospitals during the Great War will remember that it combined discomfort, expense, and impracticability. Expense, as the laundry bills came to 6s. 6d. a week, unless the nurses did their own washing, which involved great waste of fuel and of time. Impracticability, as it had to be covered with another garment for rough work, and woolly coats were worn over it in cold wards; and because the time required for changing from the outdoor uniform of coat and skirt to silk blouse and tie, to cotton dress, apron, collar, sleeves, belt and cap, etc.,



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