

**NURSING ECHOES.**

On Wednesday, October 19th, everyone in close association with the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, W.C., had a royal day, as the King and Queen paid a friendly visit to view the wonderful new hospital, which has replaced the out-of-date building celebrated as a house of healing for children, since it was founded in 1852 by a well-beloved physician.

The King and Queen were received by the Princess Royal, President of the hospital, various municipal potentates, the deputy Chairman, Major-General H. Needham, Controller, and the Matron, Miss Lane.

Bouquets were presented to the Queen and Princess Royal, who passed a guard of honour of nurses in the hall of the new hospital, where the King unveiled a tablet inscribed: "Let all who enter here remember with gratitude Dr. Charles West, to whose zeal and love of children this hospital owes its foundation in 1852."

The royal visit was altogether friendly, the children delighted to greet the King and Queen and show their entrancing toys.

In the Peter Pan ward five tiny chicks were taking tea; the Queen joined the party and agreed that the fare was delicious. Here, evidently a favourite with the children, was the daughter of the deposed Emperor of Abyssinia, who is a member of the nursing staff.

The various wards were visited, and their Majesties learned from doctors and nurses how well equipped the hospital is, with oxygen laid on in each room, the up-to-date X-ray plant, and the wonderful operating theatres, complete with every aid to surgery. With what amazement and joy the humane founder of this beautiful new hospital would have participated in this tour demonstrating the growth of his devotion to the amelioration of the suffering of children. Let us hope his great spirit may inspire generations of nurses in the noble work of

mothering and alleviating the pain of helpless children, many of them the victims of ignorance and neglect.

We are always grateful that we began our training in a Children's Hospital where the system of caring for children is so specialised and efficient.

The Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services has now been sitting for 12 months and not even an interim report has been forthcoming. The fact that the Committee cannot claim to be in any sense representative of the nursing profession, composed as it is almost entirely of employers of nurses, has made its deliberations of a somewhat disputatious nature. Whether or no its conclusions will be pro-

gressive and practical remains to be seen. We await their publication without perturbation.

In the meanwhile conditions of nursing service and education are being improved, and there is a growing interest throughout the country in hospital efficiency, which implies highly skilled care of the sick.

The prevention of debility is, however, the first duty of the community. Healthful houses, fresh air, *home grown food* and plenty of it, space to kick up one's heels, and a robust people in mind and body, should decrease the necessity for nursing.

What a grand day it would be if we could visit Madame Tussauds to gaze on a uniformed figure labelled "A Registered Nurse, much in vogue in the Dark Ages!"

The King and Queen had a great reception at Norwich which they recently visited.

The Queen, attended by the Lady Hyde, visited the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and opened the Geoffrey Colman Memorial.

Edith Cavell's grave is situated in a lovely spot in the Cathedral precincts and attracts many visitors.

It is all to the good that Matrons and Committees of hospitals are taking counsel together to bring a less



Photo

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**THE QUEEN AGREES THAT THE FARE IS DELICIOUS.**

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