

hospital. On Christmas morning the Queen and Princess Juliana breakfasted with the nurses, a memorable occasion indeed.

The installation this year of a radio telegraphy system on the island of Foula, which is 16 miles from the Shetland Mainland, was well justified during Christmas week. On Christmas Eve Foula asked for medical help for a woman dangerously ill. The weather was too bad for a landing to be made, but Dr. R. J. Mackenzie of Walls, Shetland, sent instructions by radio to the nurse resident on the island. On Christmas Day, the weather having moderated, the lifeboat called at Walls and took the doctor to Foula.

The huge streamlined caravan which Sister M. Turner and Sister Hughston will drive around the northern outback districts of Victoria attracted much admiring attention *Una* reports, when the Premier of Victoria (Mr. Dunstan) declared it open for use on October 20th.

Mr. Dunstan said: "Every child saved is of primary importance and is our best Australian immigrant." He was asked by the president of the Central Council of Baby Health Centres (Sir Walter Leitch) to provide, by Government aid, the wherewithal to purchase more caravans to travel through Gippsland and elsewhere. This travelling centre is the first of its kind in the world, and, in particular, generous donations towards its cost came from the Women's Centenary Council, the George V. Jubilee Fund for Maternal and Infant Welfare, and the H. V. McKay Trust.

In connection with the education of and assistance to country mothers the Chairman of Commissioners, Victorian Railways (Mr. Clapp) has done pioneer work. Several years ago he inaugurated the Better Farming Train, on which skilled baby health nurses travelled from time to time. The talks they were thus

enabled to give to the women who eagerly sought their advice has been a fitting preliminary to the work mapped out for the newly established caravan.

The December issue of *The Nursing Journal of India*, which is issued as a special Conference number, gives a very interesting account of the successful Annual Conference of the Trained Nurses' Association of India, held at Delhi in November, and which we learn has "broken all records."

Her Excellency the Vice-reine, the Marchioness of Linlithgow, opened the Conference with a sympathetic speech in which she said: "I am diffident at addressing so expert a gathering, but I am anxious to show my interest in and my sympathy with the objects they have in view. I have felt very strongly since I have been in India that Nursing as a profession was rather looked down upon by girls of good education." There were, she thought, one or two contributory causes. At the moment a Nurse had no recognised status and Nursing being put under the heading of "Medical Detail" in the health programme of the country did not have the standing which it should have. Another drawback was the fact that the quarters and conditions were not good enough. The discipline of the nursing staff should be entirely in the hands of the Nursing Superintendent, and not in the hands of a medical man or woman — especially it



[Photo.]

[Marcus Adams.]

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT
and
THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA OF KENT.

should not be in the hands of a man.

Her Excellency emphasised the importance of the appointment of registrars who were fully trained nurses. There were, she said, Nursing Councils in many of the provinces, but the registrars were simply clerks with no technical knowledge. If qualified Nurses were appointed the Nursing Councils would be of far greater importance, and the Nurse Registrars could conduct the inspection of hospitals which were nurses' training schools.

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