

Lovely gardens are again being opened for the benefit of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, and as this movement brings in thousands of pounds in support of the good work, we may enjoy their delights with a clear conscience.

Unless otherwise stated, the gardens are open from 11 to 7 on weekdays and from 2 to 7 on Sundays. The price of admission is usually 1s. Where the house is shown a small extra fee is charged. Full lists of gardens may be obtained from the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, 57, Lower Belgrave Street, S.W.1 (Telephone: Sloane 5319).

The Duchess of Kent, as president of the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Bath, on March 26th, received at her country house, Coppins, Iver, Bucks, Miss Maud Bastable, the Matron of the hospital, and Miss Helen Corbett, chairman of the Ladies' Association of the hospital. Her Royal Highness accepted from them for Prince Edward and Princess Alexandra a dolls' house representing a ward of the new hospital, constructed by the staff and patients of the hospital.

The Hospitals and Medical Services' Committee of the London County Council propose to continue until further orders the existing arrangements under which grants are made annually to the Central Council for District Nursing in London for distribution to local nursing associations undertaking work for the Council. The grants are made on the basis of a block sum of £4,500 a year for general district nursing plus payment at the rate of 6d. a visit for each attendance at the homes of diabetic patients for the purpose of administering insulin. The total amount of the grant payable each year is about £7,400.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, in making his first visit as President to the London Homœopathic Hospital on March 17th, presided at the annual meeting of the governors, and inspected wards and equipment with which he stated he was much impressed, and trusted the hospital would receive the full measure of public support which it so richly deserved. The Duke presented the Gold Medal and Book Prizes to the three finalists in the hospital examination, and the new hospital training badges to six members of the nursing staff. The happy recipients of the awards were:—

*Gold Medal*:—Nurse Doris W. Honchin.

*Second Prize*:—Nurse Emily J. Brown.

*Third Prize*:—Nurse Edith A. Bessant.

*Badges*:—Sisters Holman, Potter, MacGregor, Osborne, Whittam, and Jordan.

The standard of nursing and the spirit of "patients first" has always been emphasised at the London Homœopathic Hospital. We have never forgotten the wonderful "Sister Marion" whose exquisite miniature models of practical nursing equipment aroused so much admiration at the Nursing Exhibition in the Women's Building at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. They were purchased *en masse* for a Philadelphia museum as works of art.

Her Royal Highness, Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, fourth child of Queen Victoria, has just celebrated her ninetieth birthday. She was the beauty of the family, and has retained her spirited character for which she was famous in youth. Princess Louise was not only beautiful but a gifted artist and her statue of her royal mother in Kensington Gardens is the most pleasing portrait we possess of Victoria the Great.

As Duchess of Argyll, Princess Louise was patroness of Scottish nursing institutions and took a very active interest in their welfare, which she considered her own special province.

St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, announces with gratitude a splendid bequest from Mr. Frank Lindo, of his beautiful house and gardens, Adair Lodge, Aldeburgh, as a convalescent and rest home, primarily for the nursing staff of the hospital. In addition he gave a sum of £25,000 for its maintenance, so that no undue burden will fall on the general funds of the hospital—a truly magnificent gift. As "Anonymous Donor" Mr. Lindo has for long been a most generous friend to St. Mary's Hospital.

Councillor Rowden, a Herne Bay representative on the North-East Kent Guardians Committee, suggested recently that the nearness of Manston Aerodrome should be used as an attraction to secure nurses for the Thanet Institution. A strong letter of protest, signed "The Nursing Staff," was read at the Guardians' meeting.

"Mr. Rowden appears to have a false impression of the sort of young woman who becomes a nurse," said the letter. "It is a mistake for honourable members to think this, or any other institution, is a playground. With regard to the Nurses' Home itself, it is probably early days to criticise, but to our minds there is much room for improvement before we can agree it is up to the standard of a private hotel."

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. H. Willett, said he was glad the letter had been written, for, whilst the Committee regarded the suggestion as a joke, it might easily lead to a misunderstanding that the public might construe that the committee sought nurses of a frivolous type.

It is amazing how the whole hospital world has been stirred by the introduction into the House of Commons, and second reading last December, of the *Local Authorities (Hours of Employment in connection with Hospitals and Institutions) Bill* by the Labour Party although the Bill which brought nursing conditions on the *tapis* was outvoted by a small majority. With few exceptions the House was sympathetically inclined—and as an M.P. was heard to remark: "Labour is not to be allowed to get away with it," meaning, presumably, here is scope for reform and popularity and the Government must take action. And that is just what is happening—one hospital after another whose nursing arrangements were behind time are taking time by the forelock and improving conditions so that when the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Nursing Services makes its report it must contain very liberal recommendations, or it will find itself hopelessly out of date. One thing is certain, to enforce shorter service

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)