

NURSING ECHOES.

Her Majesty the Queen was present at a garden party on July 25th, at Grove House, Regent's Park, in aid of the St. Marylebone Housing Association Building Fund, which is doing much to provide really healthy homes for those living in surroundings injurious to health. Her Majesty's dress of narrow and slim fashion—making for grace, aroused a flutter amongst the women—so used have they become to flounces and furbelows.

Purses were presented to the Queen in support of the good cause, and the band of the Scots Guards played during the afternoon. Pipers of the regiment were also present, and a number of Highland dances were performed to the evident delight of the Queen. A very gay and successful function.

Her Royal Highness the Princess Arthur of Connaught, President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, has taken up residence at 64, Avenue Road, N.W.8. This avenue of beautiful houses, many with charming gardens, north of Regent's Park, has of late become very popular with people who love fresh air, and object to the endless noise and confusion of West End traffic. Her Royal Highness is to be congratulated upon her choice of environment.

It is announced that Her Royal Highness Princess Arthur of Connaught, who is a Registered Nurse, has acquired 23, Bentinck Street, W., where she proposes to conduct a Nursing Home, herself acting as Matron. This home has until recently been conducted by Miss Gretton, who has sold it to the Princess. It contains 12 rooms, each with its own telephone, and has recently been refurnished, and the Princess is taking over the contents.

The superintendence of a Nursing Home is exceedingly responsible work; but no doubt, although Princess Arthur intends to act as Matron, she will have highly skilled Registered Nurses to help her.

Miss Harriet Y. Richardson, who for thirty-two years was the beloved General Secretary of the Nurses' Missionary League, has sent the following "Thank You" to her friends, near and far:—

"I do indeed thank you all for the love tokens, in the shape of the money gift and handbag and the album with nearly 900 names. I cannot tell you how I shall value this. I mean to divide up the branches, private and district nurses and our oversea friends into a special ministry of intercession in my 'Daily' book, so that in future I hope I may be able to give you much greater help. It is lovely to know each other personally, and I can thank God upon every remembrance of you.

"I say with deep assurance, 'surely goodness and mercy have followed us' during the thirty-two years, and I am sure the promise holds good, 'you shall see greater things than these.'

"With the best of good wishes.

"Yours affectionately,

"HARRIET Y. RICHARDSON."

Miss Topping, the new General Secretary, is now at Headquarters, and by the beginning of September she hopes to be quite settled in at No. 3, St. Augustine's

Mansions, Vauxhall Bridge Road. She will welcome any nurses on Thursdays in September. The Valet-dictory Meetings are being planned for Friday, September 29th, to be held at the Caxton Hall, S.W.1, and the Annual Sale of Work will be held at St. Augustine's Mansions on Thursday and Friday, November 23rd and 24th. At present the cupboards are very bare, and members are being relied upon to send quantities of nice saleable goods. For the Nurses' Stall—everything for the toilet very welcome.

The resignation of Miss Eales, the well-known Hon. Secretary of the Association of Queen's Superintendents, will be sincerely regretted not only by members of the Association, but by the officers of the National Council of Nurses to which it is affiliated, and who in their association with Miss Eales invariably found her all that was courteous and businesslike. We hope to hear of her complete recovery. Miss Evans has been appointed the new Hon. Secretary of the Association.

Mrs. C. I. Hilyer, of Bournemouth, expresses the opinion that: "Englishwomen should bestir themselves if they wish to keep pace with their French sisters, who have recently formed a corps of 'Infirmières Parachutistes.' The Corps consists of a body of nurses trained as parachutists, prepared to be dropped from aeroplanes wherever they may be needed. It appears to me this would be most valuable training, either in war or peace time, both for nurses and doctors, as an adjunct to the Air Medical Service. There are many inaccessible places, both in the British Isles and the Dominions, where a plane could not land but a parachutist could do so quite safely. The first step is, of course, to train the parachutists and to decide the best way to provide training at the least expense. There are a good many flying clubs in the country where it might be feasible for a few Government-guaranteed parachutes to be provided, with a fully qualified visiting instructor, so that nurses or V.A.D.s could start learning in their own districts. No doubt if volunteers come forward the authorities will find a way of dealing with training."

A notable Conference held in Melbourne Town Hall on Thursday, May 11th, resulted in a very valuable discussion on efficient training of nurses, and the scientific and technical progress of the nursing profession. The meeting was the outcome of a letter from Sir John Harris, Minister of Health, in regard to the alleged shortage of nurses in the State of Victoria, and whether a wider basis of training in the material afforded by the various special hospitals could be provided within a period of three years. The summary of the verbatim report is very instructive. The meeting, after the expression of much expert opinion, approved of the general policy of affiliation, the Nurses' Board to be left to work out the scheme in detail. It is quite refreshing to study the opinions of experts all united in their desire to elevate standards of nursing—instead of schemes calculated to depreciate its efficiency being thrust forward as in England. We reprint with relief the opinion by Miss J. Bell, President of the Royal Victorian College of Nursing, in this connection.

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