

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

### ALEXANDRA ROSE DAY.

This year Alexandra Rose Day was held in London on June 25th, and H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent, who is Chairman of the Appeal, looking lovely in gay summer array, made a tour of the depots for the sale of flowers.

"Business as usual" was the motto of the organisers, and about 50,000 people responded to the appeal for helpers.

This is the 29th celebration of Rose Day and, as in previous years, the headquarters for the City was at the Mansion House. This year, in addition to the usual centres, roses were on sale at A.R.P. posts, and wardens co-operated with the collectors.

The King and Queen and members of their staff bought emblems at Buckingham Palace.

It is anticipated that the hospitals will greatly benefit by the response to the appeal.

### WORK OF EMERGENCY HOSPITALS.

As there has been, and still is, very serious criticism of the work in Emergency Hospitals, so far as the organisation and standard of nursing are concerned, we are pleased to reprint the following report from *The Times*:—

The Dunkirk evacuation faced the emergency hospital scheme of the Ministry of Health, prepared long ago in readiness for air attack, with its first important test, and in the result one more aspect of a great and comprehensive operation reflected credit on all concerned.

Under the scheme, designed for dealing with heavy air raid casualties, the London area was divided into 10 sectors, each with its apex in Central London and near one of the large hospitals, and widening out to advanced bases and then base hospitals 30 or 40 miles away. But for this first test the stream of casualties was the other way.

An account of the work was given to a representative of *The Times* recently by a medical professor who was at one section headquarters. He said that the sector hospitals had exercised a wise discretion in making beds empty in the days preceding the evacuation, and in all about 7,000 beds were ready for occupation. From the hospital ships the most serious cases were taken to hospitals near the ports; the less severely wounded were taken by train to hospitals beyond Kent and Sussex.

After the hospital ships came the smaller boats, each having some wounded to disembark. Additional sector hospitals were used to ensure rapid surgical treatment of all cases. It was not known when the flow would stop and so arrangements were made to evacuate many of the less seriously wounded to the West Country, with the result that the sector could comfortably have dealt with three times the number it was called on to handle.

Actually, 1,873 cases were treated in sector hospitals during a period of 12 days. These included French, Belgian, and British soldiers and sailors, and a few refugees. Although nearly half had received no treatment other than first-aid before they reached the sector hospitals, and were carried in ambulances from 30 to 60 miles, only 33 cases died, or about 1.7 per cent. of the total.

The response of the sector hospitals to the demands of sector headquarters was wonderful. Not one was found to confess that it could not undertake any more work. Everybody made it a point of honour to see that everything possible was done for the incoming wounded with the maximum speed. As the work increased mobile surgical teams were sent from London and additional trained theatre nurses, house officers, and student dressers were drafted into coastal towns that needed their help.



Photo] [Evening Standard

ALEXANDRA ROSE DAY.  
H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent, Chairman of the Appeal.

### RISE OF SALARIES FOR NURSING AUXILIARIES.

The Minister of Health reports that the Minister of Home Security has recently announced that as from July 1st, 1940, the standard rates of pay of Civil Defence Volunteers, viz., £3 a week for men and £2 a week for women, are increased by 5s. a week for men and 3s. 6d. a week for women.

As stated in C.N.R. Memo. 1, the present rate of pay for Nursing Auxiliaries is the general rate laid down for Women Civil Defence Volunteers. Accordingly, the increase of 3s. 6d. a week in the case of women will apply to any Nursing Auxiliaries who are employed for whole-time duty.

Nursing Auxiliaries are not popular, as their very brief experience in hospital work leaves no time for instilling discipline, and many resent supervision and object to drudgery. This, of course, brings them into collision with the trained and disciplined staff.

The system is wrong, but the Ministry of Health, that all-powerful department, will have it so.

### WRIGHT-KINGSFORD HOME FOR CHILDREN.

The Wright-Kingsford Home has issued its usual meticulous and admirable Report of another year of work. Unfortunately the Home has lost some good friends by death, and we offer to both Miss Wright and Miss Kingsford our sincere sympathy in that each has lost a sister, as both of them took a generous and helpful interest in the good work. The Report gives evidence of care and wise management throughout, but alas, as in the case of many other institutions, all the discretion that can be given to financial administration cannot combat altogether the financial conditions that war has wrought.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)