

NURSING ECHOES.

On the opposite page we present a picture of Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose at the microphone, when recently they spoke to the children of the Empire at home and abroad, and gave so much pleasure to thousands in so doing.

From the little groups of our children who have reached the Dominions and the United States, reports of their happiness and well-being are coming over the cable. Alas! that the ruthless assassins who do not hesitate to murder these innocents make it politic not to expose them to sudden death, so during winter no more children from this country will be sent overseas—greatly to the disappointment of thousands of kind people who were prepared to care for them.

The attacks on our hospitals have been ruthless during the past month, our barbarous enemies gloating, no doubt, to know that not only have they murdered sick people lying helpless in their beds, but that their devoted attendants have also been smashed to death with them. All reports of attacks on hospitals emphasise the splendid courage of our Matrons and Nurses, many of whom, though injured, have carried on and helped the patients to safety. It is too soon yet to know how best to honour the dead, but no doubt their names will be gathered together and held in honour by a suitable memorial of the sacrifice of their lives which will reflect honour upon our profession for all time.

The lovely Book of Remembrance in which the names of all Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses who pass hence are inscribed will, no doubt, provide some special illuminated record of those who have died violently, yet gloriously, for their country.

We recently had the great pleasure of listening to Captain E. D. La Touche and his very talented wife in sketches, songs, monologues and stories in their appeal in support of ex-Services Welfare Society, which cares for some of the most pathetic figures of War, those who are mentally disabled or suffering from nervous disorders caused by service to King and country. We intend to give information at some length concerning this fine service in a future issue.

Many of us know of the late Sir Frederick Milner's Home, Eden Lodge, Beckenham, and the Hostel at the Industrial Colony, Leatherhead. One of these beautiful places has been bombed and put out of service for the time being, and must be replaced, as already sailors, soldiers, airmen, and men of the Mercantile Marine, are sufferers from shock in this war, and need remedial and remunerative occupations. The plight of many is heartrending.

The Minister of Health has asked Local Emergency Organisations to bring to the notice of prospective recruits in the Civil Nursing Reserve who may be in receipt of unemployment benefit or unemployment assistance, an arrangement by which women who are undergoing intensive training courses will continue to be

paid unemployment benefit. Any existing unemployment assistance allowance will not be disturbed because they are receiving free board and lodging.

A cheque for £1,000 was handed to the Treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, as the result of the nurses' special appeal for the rebuilding fund—the amount is earmarked for the Nurses' Home Rebuilding Fund. In addition, £25 4s. 10d. has been allocated from money contributed to compile a Calendar which, owing to war, was found impossible to publish.

Those of us who know and love Greece rejoice that at last a little country intends "to fight to the last breath," and that its King has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of all the land, sea, and air forces. Thus King George the VI of the British Empire no longer stands alone as the only Monarch in arms against tyranny, and we note the National Council of Labour has expressed its detestation of the cowardly and dispicable act of wanton aggression committed by Mussolini against the Greek nation. Mr. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, has announced that we should honour our pledge to Greece and that British troops have been landed on Greek territory. The Royal Navy was there, and air support has been given.

How about Nursing? Through private support fine contingents of thoroughly trained nurses were speedily on the spot in the Greco-Turkish War of 1897, and again in the 1921 campaign.

We had the honour to organise these contingents and command them in person in 1897. The Greeks have never forgotten our services—and we have never forgotten the romance of that campaign. A younger generation should now take the helm and see that British Nurses are on the spot in Greece to help in the nursing of the Greek forces. No doubt our fine Government Nursing Services will be where our Naval, Military and Air Forces are on duty.

This attack on Greece is sacrilege. If the sacred stones of Athens are disturbed, only St. Peter's and other monuments at Rome can pay the penalty.

The Minister of Health has issued a circular to hospital authorities withdrawing to a large extent the limitations made earlier in the year on the employment of German and Austrian refugees in the great majority of hospitals.

Existing limitations will continue to apply in all protected areas, but elsewhere persons of German, Austrian, or Italian nationality may now be employed as doctors, students, nurses, or in other capacities in all hospitals included in the emergency hospital scheme, provided certain safeguards are observed, such as a preponderance of British staff in each category. Aliens of these nationalities will be barred from employment in special military wards.

How about British workers in the emergency hospital scheme? They presumably have no sensibilities in associating with enemy nationals whose compatriots may have murdered their nearest and dearest overnight—some of them still buried alive—the homes of whose friends and families may have been smashed by bombs and razed to the ground. And the patients

previous page

next page