

NURSING ECHOES.

In spite of tragedy the years slip by, and on April 21, Princess Elizabeth attained her fifteenth birthday, which was spent in the country with the King and Queen—a happy day, no doubt, in spite of war—and no birthday cake, no doubt as a Royal gesture to others who still do not realise how necessary it is to curb their love of luxury.

A few young friends to tea—after which a film show included some reels taken by the Princess with her own cine-camera, among them being many shots of the King and Queen and Princess Margaret. The charming picture on this page of Princess Elizabeth, shows us how nearly she is approaching woman's estate. We all wish her health and happiness.

We hear little of the strenuous work of the Princess Royal, yet she is in the front rank of war workers. Her Royal Highness devotes much of her time to work in her home county of York and the north country. She recently became a donor of the national blood transfusion service, a splendid example followed by many women. When in Scotland she learned when she visited the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, that there were 43,000 blood donors in Scotland, and that it is hoped to increase the number to 60,000. They never do things by halves over the Border.

We wish the public generally could realise the difficulties under war conditions of producing news sheets of all kinds, and the really wonderful manner in which newspapers and journals are compiled and printed for their pleasure and instruction. So far, what with the loss of skilled staff, compulsory restriction of working hours, to say nothing of alerts, shelters, diverted

transport, and the scattering of bricks and papers, the wonderful organisation of all concerned is a marvel. If, therefore, you come across little slips in either phrasing or printing, realise that without extreme vigilance and the utmost devotion to duty, news sheets would not appear at all. As for the agonies of the Editor, spare her a kindly thought, and if you are in generous humour make her the present of a wig!

We feel sure many friends will regret to hear that Miss Simms, S.R.N., late Matron of the Waterloo Hospital for Women and Children, was seriously injured in the raid on St. Andrew's House Club, where she was staying when it was bombed. Miss Simms was engaged in responsible war work, where her great experience and ability were of the utmost value. We shall all hope to hear of her progress towards recovery.

Mrs. Rebecca Strong, O.B.E., the *doyenne* of British Matrons, has, we regret to learn, met with an accident and fractured her femur whilst on a visit from home. The marvellous vitality of this great nursing pioneer, whose life story would be an entrancing record of the evolution of trained nursing since the 'sixties in the last century, has yet to be written. We met her in London last year, her faculties as bright as ever and looking incredibly young for her years. We feel

sure we shall hear she is up and about in the near future, and wish her a painless recovery.

"Nurses Near and Far," the organ of the Nurses Missionary League, announces that as many of the branches are finding the old name of the Society a real hindrance in their efforts to recruit new members, it is proposed that at the annual meeting, to be held in



Photo]

[Marcus Adams

PRINCESS ELIZABETH ON HER FIFTEENTH BIRTHDAY.

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