

NURSING ECHOES.

On December 18th, 1941, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester gave birth to a son, after seven years of marriage and at the age of 40. We can well imagine with what joy the baby Prince was welcomed. As the son of the King's brother next in the succession to the Crown after the Princess Elizabeth and the Princess Margaret, this baby boy is a very important little person indeed.

On January 6th the infant prince was registered in the names of William Henry Andrew Frederick at the nursing home at Barnet where he was born.

The Duchess signed the register, and immediately afterwards she and the baby left by car for Barnwell Manor, Peterborough.

The Duchess of Gloucester, since her marriage has won well deserved popularity. Simple and charming in manner, she has earned genuine affection from those with whom she comes in contact in her war work. She holds the honourable office of Air-Commandant of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, known to be a very popular Service with patriotic girls.

The Minister of Health, Mr. Ernest Brown, speaking in London at the annual meeting of the King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, referred to the position of nurses, and domestic workers in hospitals, under the new call-up. He said :

"The mobilisation of women, which is vital to our war effort, is a matter of great concern to all interested in the efficient working of hospitals. The hospital services stand much in our minds in the plans which are being made.

"During the campaign for the recruitment of women which has been carried out since the registration began, nursing and domestic work in hospitals have been included among the short list of services which women were encouraged to join at their interviews with officers of the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

"The position which these services occupy in the arrangements for recruitment will be maintained. Nursing and domestic work in hospitals are recognised as vital war work ; those who serve in this way will not

be called up and women will be encouraged to volunteer for such work and, if necessary, directed to take it."

At the meeting of the Nurses' Salaries Committee, held on January 2nd, at the Ministry of Health, there would appear to have been unanimity with the exception put forward by the Royal College of Nursing of very high salaries for matrons of the larger hospitals. This matter will have to receive further consideration, as many medical appointments are not remunerated at so high a scale, especially as many of them do not carry emoluments on a very generous scale.

The value of emoluments has now to be considered by the Committee, also District Nurses, Health Visitors and Midwives are to be included in the scheme.

Miss Isabel MacDonald's calendar has, as in the case of those of previous years, been compiled in order to raise a sum of money which, after meeting expenses for printing, etc., enables a cheque to be sent to about 170 sick and aged nurses for Christmas comfort. Fifteen members of the British College of Nurses were included amongst the recipients this year, and the letters of thanks received makes one realise how restricted are the means of many old nurses who have borne the burden of arduous work in the past for very meagre pay. Let us hope, with the increased salaries the present generation of nurses, will soon be receiving, that they will be able to save for a comfortable old age. Nurses are proverbially generous, helping colleagues and their families; they



HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER.

should now be able to help themselves.

The death of Miss M. W. Jenkins is notified in *League News*. She was one of the first batch of probationers admitted for two years' training when the Training School was inaugurated in 1877, and as Sister of Casualty Ward remained in the service of the hospital for many years. A very sprightly and loyal little woman, we found, and left her at Barts., and have memories of her helpful kindness and devotion to duty. She must have attained a great age.

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