

NURSING ECHOES.

It is a pleasure to report the convalescence of the Princess Margaret after her operation for appendicitis, and that she is well enough to travel to Sandringham, where the King and Queen will hold a Royal Christmas, the first since 1939—with all good wishes possible from the whole community, realising as they do their devotion to duty and splendid example to us all.

This year the King will make his Christmas broadcast from the same room at Sandringham which his father, King George V., used when he inaugurated the Royal Christmas broadcasts. The Nursing Profession, sincerely loyal, will wish the Royal gathering all the happiness possible.

Her Majesty Queen Mary has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of 144 nurses to be Queen's Nurses; 105 in England, four in Wales, 32 in Scotland, and three in Northern Ireland.

Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital has been associated in our experience with the beneficent care of poor lying-in women for the past half-century, and we have come into touch with tragedy within its hospitable wards. Now rebuilt at Stamford Brook, Hammersmith, it still has to turn away expectant mothers at the rate of 4,000 a year, and it is reported that many mothers are delivered of their babies on trolleys and mattresses because all the beds in the hospital are full.

Beautiful new buildings have recently been erected at the cost of £500,000, and are considered an example to the world of what a modern maternity hospital should be. The catering, we are told, reaches a new standard in big tiled kitchens equipped with electrical apparatus of the most modern structure, and the patients' food is served from electrically-heated trolleys.

The nursing staff are also most happily provided with all necessary comfort. Every one has a private bedroom with fitted basin and hot and cold water; for senior sisters this opens into a private sitting-room as well. Junior sisters have a small dressing-room opening out of a bed-sitting-room, and there are private study-rooms for students preparing for examinations. These can also be used for entertaining friends.

The doctors, nursing staff, visiting members of the board, and students all have their meals together in a spacious dining room fitted as a cafeteria, and here also discipline for the nurses is relaxed. There is a separate cafeteria for the domestic staff. Three eight-hour shifts are in operation in the labour wards, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 4 p.m. to midnight, and midnight to 8 a.m. In addition to the main hospital, there is a separate building for ante-natal, post-natal and infant clinics.

On November 20th, the Queen, a devoted mother, spent two hours touring the new wing of Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital. A babe having been born as she stepped out of her car, she graciously consented to the request of its mother that it might be named after the Queen, so let us hope "Norma Rose Elizabeth" may live up to her euphonious name in the coming future, especially as Queen Elizabeth expressed the hope that her namesake should have "the very best of luck."

Colonel (Matron-in-Chief) A. C. Neill, R.R.C., head of the Canadian Military Nurses in Europe during the war, has now returned to Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, and will be sincerely missed by numerous friends in England, where she won golden opinions, professionally and socially.

No doubt it is the King's Fund which has aroused quite a lively interest in hospital diet of late.

The Ministry of Health has sent a memorandum to hospitals emphasising that the catering side of their management should be regarded as one of the main departments.

"Hospital patients should be," it says, "impressed not only by the quality of the food but by its importance for health. Parsimony in the provision of food and staff for hospital kitchens should be no more tolerated than would a failure to provide proper equipment and competent staff for the operating theatre of the radiological department."

The Queen's Institute of District Nursing will benefit this year by the sum of £4,125, which has been raised by the National Gardens Scheme.

The scheme is most popular, as hundreds of people are only too pleased to pay a visit to the most beautiful gardens in the United Kingdom which they might not otherwise enjoy. We heard a whisper of late that the Government intended to interfere in the regulations for district nursing. It is to be hoped that this most popular branch of nursing will not be discouraged in any way.

Indeed, the Queen's Nurses Magazine reports a step in the right direction. At a recent conference held in London the Chairman, Miss Wilmshurst, O.B.E., explained that the request of the Superintendents' Association and the Queen's Nurses League that the Queen's Nurse should be given the status of Sister was agreed to by the Institute, and the proposed title of "Queen's Nursing Sister" was submitted to the Patron, Queen Mary fully recognised the need for recognition of the status but felt the name was clumsy. The Institute therefore decided to retain the name of Queen's Nurse but that she should have the status of Sister and therefore have the right to be called Sister.

In closing the Conference the Chairman said they all appreciated very much the trust their patients gave them which enabled them to render the service they wished to give. The Queen's Nurses' League is financially sound. Let it keep power in its own hands—it would be much to be regretted if any Government department interfered with its independence.

When we heard a man state emphatically that nothing good can come out of war, we felt compelled to contradict him.

We had just returned from a walk in Kensington Gardens. There we had seen modern mothers and fathers wheeling the loveliest babes in luxurious prams. How happened it they possessed such treasures? We will tell you. Their fathers were well grown upstanding young men, well drilled, well fed and clothed, not the weedy boys, stunted physically and mentally by sunless office work and little British beef, we met in hundreds before the war.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)