

NURSING ECHOES.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Elizabeth attained her 19th birthday on April 21st, and her portrait appeared in the Press. Our portrait presents the Princess dressed for a ball, a tiara gleaming in her hair. It is good to know that the heir apparent to the Throne enjoys the relaxation of youth. The education of the Princess has been very strenuous and all work and no play is by no means wise. The King and Queen encourage every national form of activity and took Her Royal Highness, in uniform as a Second Subaltern, A.T.S., to the South Cup Final between Chelsea and Millwall at Wembley Stadium recently, where the crowd of 90,000 included thousands of Servicemen.

It will be remembered that Queen Victoria would dance till 3 o'clock in the morning in the early years of her reign, and when certain persons objected and tried to rouse a protest, an old "wife" to whom they appealed replied, "What I says is let her!" And a very wise answer too!

Just what we are all longing for after the unnecessary restrictions of autocrats in power during the war.

Princess Elizabeth recently completed her course at a M.T. Training Centre of the A.T.S. and passed out as a fully qualified and competent driver.

She took tests, both oral and written, on motor mechanics as well as a practical examination, and passed all successfully. Congratulations.

League News, the official organ of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses just received, is specially welcome. There is, as frontispiece, an excellent portrait of the late Miss Helen Baines elected for life the first Honorary Vice-President of the League, an honour well deserved by the most popular member of the Nursing Staff since the passing of Isla Stewart in 1910.

It is written: "This distinction bestowed upon her in 1939 gave proof of the love and respect in which she was held by her hospital associates, and demonstrated their infinite gratitude to her for her life's work

at the hospital, and her unfailing interest in all that concerned the Nursing Profession."

League News contains many tributes to the memory of this great woman, so modest and so lovable, and the Helen Baines Memorial Fund appeal is sure of support, the object of which is to be scholarships for members of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses, and/or Travelling Bursaries to be administered by a League Committee.

League News, as usual, contains much interesting information of all the activities of the League, and we are pleased to note a sound financial position, and a long list of births and marriages.



Photo]

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HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ELIZABETH
ON HER NINETEENTH BIRTHDAY.

The Matron-in-Chief Q.A.I.M.N.S. points out that the ranks where individual names are used should be Matron-in-Chief, Chief Principal Matron, Principal Matron, Matron, Senior Sister and Sister.

These officers now wear khaki uniform and enjoy military rank, and we are looking forward to the time when war ceases, when the Labour Ministry will cease to interfere with professional nursing status in any form whatever.

The Minister of Health has asked local authorities and voluntary hospitals throughout England and Wales to consider provision of meals in hospitals both to the patients and the staffs.

Official visits were paid to hospitals of varying types by representatives of three Ministries — Health,

Labour and National Service, and Food—and it is on the information thus obtained that the recommendations for improving catering and feeding are based.

The Minister of Health, Mr. Willink, points out that the provision of hospital food necessitates "a scientific approach which involves questions of judicious purchasing, good cooking, palatability, and the attractive presentation of the prepared food so as to ensure that the nutritional requirements of all in hospitals are fully met."

Nothing is more important than food when treating the sick, and the most important structural reform in hospitals is the ward kitchen attached to them.

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