

KINGS AND QUEENS.

The Kings and Queens of countries in Europe during the war have been scattered afar, and, as usual, Great Britain has been the asylum of the majority, and they have enjoyed every comfort excepting peace of mind. Our own Royal Family have been a fine example of devotion to duty, and their royal guests will, we have no doubt, carry away to their own countries beneficent memories.

Personally, we have been deeply interested in the Queen Mother who stayed at home, Elisabeth Valerie Gabrielle Marie of the Royal House of Belgium, the King's Mother, a self-elective prisoner within the precincts of the Royal Palace of Laeken, during four years of German occupation, when she courageously determined to remain and suffer every penalty inflicted. This royal lady is endowed with genius in many directions; she is a fine artist, and our portrait presents her in a smock. Music is one of her grand passions, and a cherished possession is a Stradivarius violin, and she is a superb sculptor. Thus as an artist her long captivity was alleviated by genius.

Brussels, 1933.

Those of us who attended the Congress of the International Council of Nurses held in Brussels in 1933, will never forget the gracious kindness of Queen Elisabeth when received by her at the Palace of Laeken, and the tour through her lovely rose gardens. We still possess the exquisite rose she gathered and presented to us. Alas! she has endured tragic events since that summer's day. Now Queen Elisabeth is with us on a visit to London, and the Council of the British College of Nurses has welcomed her with exquisite flowers, as it has done on previous occasions, wishing Her Majesty all the relief from the sorrows she has sustained with such heroic courage during the horrors of war.

The President of the College, who is a member of the Order First Class of Leopold I, and Miss Alice Stewart Bryson selected the flowers to which the following words were attached:

To Her Majesty The Queen Mother of the Royal House of Belgium, from the President and Council of the British College of Nurses Ltd.

With gratitude and deepest admiration of the inspiring

example to humanity, of the courage and endurance maintained by Her Majesty Queen Elisabeth throughout the years of the tyrannical German invasion of her country which she refused to desert.

5th June, 1945.

Her Majesty thanked the President and Council of the British College of Nurses in the following words:—

Queen Elisabeth of the Belgians was so touched to receive the beautiful flowers and charming message,

Lady in Waiting.

We learn that Mrs. L. Wilkinson, the-Matron-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, has been on tour abroad. She has visited military nursing groups and hospitals in Italy and Greece and elsewhere, and has been warmly greeted throughout. She has, we feel sure, enjoyed coming into personal touch with the highly qualified staff of which she is head. We hope she has a safe return to London, free from the insidious fevers so prevalent in Southern Europe.



Photo]

["Illustrated"

ELISABETH VALERIE GABRIELLE MARIE.
QUEEN MOTHER OF THE ROYAL HOUSE
OF BELGIUM.

Message sent to Queen Mary on the occasion of Her Birthday and copy of Her Gracious Reply.

"The Matron-in-Chief and all members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve, and Territorial Army Nursing Service beg to offer to Your Majesty, their President, respectful and heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of your birthday."

MATRON-IN-CHIEF.

Reply from Queen Mary to Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S., War Office, S.W.

"I send you and all members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and Reserve and Territorial Army Nursing Service my heartfelt thanks for your kindness in remembering the anniversary of my birthday."

MARY R.

QUEEN MARY RETURNS TO LONDON.

Queen Mary has returned to London, from Badminton, Gloucestershire, where she has been the guest of the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, for the past five years. Her Majesty, who travelled from Badminton by motor-car, was cheered by a small crowd as she drove through the gates of Marlborough House, while sentries of the Scots Guards saluted, in acknowledgment of which Her Majesty waved her hand.

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