

NURSING ECHOES.

The announcement that the Royal Family are to visit South Africa early next year has been received with great pleasure. The news was presented under bold headlines in the newspapers and was lavishly illustrated with photographs.

Nurses in South Africa have united to place their profession on honourable lines—and in the new Act of Parliament have special recognition. They will, no doubt, take part in the reception of Royalty, whose interest in their invaluable work for the community is sincere.

The Nurses' Christian Movement is holding its Annual Meetings on May 7th at Bible Society's House, 146, Queen Victoria Street, London.

At the Afternoon Session the Chairman will be the Right Rev. the Bishop of Willesden, and the speakers will be Dr. Ralph Bolton (China), Miss Caverhill (E. Africa), and Miss L. Topping, S.R.N.

At the Evening Session the Chair will be taken by Prof. John Kirk, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.E., and the speakers will be J. Howard Somervell, F.R.C.S. (S. India), and Miss F. S. Major (China).

The Summer School of the Nurses Christian Movement is to be held at Semon Home, Ilkley, Yorkshire, beautifully situated on the edge of the Yorkshire Moors, from June 28th to July 5th of this year.

It is hoped to welcome to the School members on furlough from the Mission Field, and several other speakers. The programme will include Bible Study, Prayer, Discussion Groups, Rambles, Sing-songs, etc.

Further particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, Miss L. Topping, S.R.N., 3, Cromwell Place, London, S.W.7.

We note that an increasing number of people are beginning to give active sympathy to the deaf—especially to those who have lost hearing in the War—and we have read with interest "Aural News" the "Quarterly News-sheet" published by the Middlesex and Surrey "League for the Hard of Hearing," which is doing fine helpful work for the deaf.

To quote the Editor:—

"An interesting article which appeared recently in a daily paper stressed the fact that the hope of limbless ex-Service men, when they leave hospital, is to fit themselves into the normal pattern of everyday life. It is not easy, at 23 or so, said the writer, to prepare to go through all the rest of your life different from other men, cut off from many of the things that gave life its zest. These men had suffered a period of violent readjustment. Every one who had won his own private battle was eager to help others.

"A man of wide experience, a doctor, at a big London hospital, once said to me, 'The bravest people I know are those who have faced up to a physical disability and won through in spite of it.'

"What can we learn from these brave men in hospital, who welcome a newcomer with a chorus of greetings—'What ran you over, a tram or a bus?'—and only in the dark night, when they think they will not be heard, may exclaim, 'O God, I wish I could die'?"

"One lesson we learn is the value of co-operation. Artificial limbs of high quality, suitable jobs (and help in holding them down), cannot be provided unless the individual problems of each man are presented to the powers that be as one big problem urgently needing attention. Nothing helps so much in psychological problems (feeling cut off, unable to take part, to contribute) as contact with others who really understand, and to see the success of those who have already met the same problems.

"There is no need for the unhappy deaf person to feel alone, isolated, in fighting his very real battles. While those who have come through—and all of us have had, and still have, some difficulties to face—should be all the more eager to lend a hand to others."

The Sixty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Mental After-Care Association, under the Presidency of H.R.H. Princess Arthur of Connaught, S.R.N., was held on March 27th, 1946, at Burlington House, Piccadilly, by permission of President and Council of the Royal Society.

Henry Yellowlees, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P., Chairman of the Association, the Rev. R. S. V. Scott, D.D., of St. Columba's, Pont Street, Dr. J. Bram of the Polish Medical Services and Dr. Duncan Whittaker, Deputy Medical Superintendent of the Bethlem Royal Hospital, addressed the meeting, and progress on the year's work was reported.

Founded in 1879, the Mental After-Care Association has done much to help sufferers from mental and nervous disorders, and places its services at the disposal of all authorities or individuals who require assistance in boarding out and convalescence of patients from mental disorders, and provides homes in the country and at the seaside.

The Association receives "early care" cases, as many slighter forms of mental and nervous disorder recover when taken at an early stage and patients are thus saved a long course of treatment in hospital.

A WARM WELCOME AWAITED HIM.

The news that Mr. Churchill had arrived safely in England was received with joy—and that his holiday in U.S.A. has greatly benefited his health, is evident. Those of us who live in the next street took a peep at his charming little house—so rural with its little paned windows and net curtains—with lovely trees, a bit of real Kensington as it used to be, waving at the back. We wonder if the personal "History of the War" for which he has been offered a fabulous price will be written in this retreat.

Mr. Jacob Epstein, the sculptor, is to do a bust of Mr. Churchill in bronze. The work has been commissioned by the Ministry of Information (the Central Office of Information). "The sittings should not last more than a week," says Mr. Epstein. "The work will be life size, and I shall concentrate on the head."

This is welcome news, and those of us who believe gratitude—now so rare—to be the supreme virtue, intend to help the man who saved our country from demolition in war, and the world from destruction, and, mean to support his genius in the political struggle with this tyrannical government, a fit environment for serfs—but not for us in whose veins the glorious blood of Britain flows.

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