

NURSING ECHOES.

PRINCESS ELIZABETH.

We are confident that all our readers will join with us in offering sincere congratulations to "Our Princess" on attaining her twenty-first birthday. In wishing her long life and happiness, good health, true friends and loyal subjects and every other choicest blessing which life can bestow, we do so in the knowledge that by the example already shown in her young life she fully deserves all these good things. May God bless and prosper our dear Princess and may we soon have the joy of her presence amongst us again.

On Saturday, March 29th, 1947, at 3.30 p.m., an informal Tea Party was held at the United Nursing Services Club in Cavendish Square. It was given by the President and Honorary Officers of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, so that all Nurses who are travelling to Atlantic City for the forthcoming I.C.N. could meet for friendly discussion.

The guests were announced on arrival by Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Hon. Secretary, and charmingly greeted by the President, Miss D. C. Bridges, R.R.C., S.R.N. After tea, the President addressed the assembly and gave a few words of advice and cleared up one or two points about which there had been some doubt.

Miss Grace Fairley, of Canada, also gave a little advice on matters of how to dress in view of the climate. She didn't think it would be too hot in May and thus a light suit would be useful. She mentioned that there would be some social functions and that a tea-gown and evening gown would be useful. However she didn't think that one ought to expend coupons on the latter, as one could manage without.

Dame Ellen Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., S.R.N., also made a small contribution to the proceedings and said she hoped that British Nurses would look out for colleagues from the Empire, and help them to feel the bonds of family which existed between us, particularly those colleagues of coloured races.

It was a most happy party and in spite of the torrential rain outside we parted in high spirits. One could almost hear the railway porter calling "Waterloo, Southampton, New York, take your places, please!"

On Wednesday, April 2nd, 1947, a small and intimate party of welcome was arranged at the Princess Louise Kensington Hospital for Children, for Miss Edmunds, S.R.N., D.N. (Leeds), on taking up her appointment as Matron. It was arranged by the Sisters and Mr. Hart (the Secretary of the Hospital) and was a most happy event. Mr. Hart proved himself to be a grand "Master of Ceremonies" and Quiz Master, and fun flowed merrily. Miss Edmunds is to be congratulated on taking up so happy and important a post, and the staff on the wise choice of Matron by their Committee. Miss Edmunds is a lady of wide experience in the profession and will be a great asset to "Princess Louise." She trained at Birmingham General Hospital and at the Children's Hospital, Birmingham. After varied experience, she was called up in October, 1939, as a Sister in the

Q.A.I.M.N.S., and served throughout the war. On demobilisation she had attained the rank of Principal Matron. We wish her all happiness and success in her new post.

The Nurses' Christian Movement Annual Meetings are to be held on Friday, May 2nd, at 3 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. in the Bible Society House, 146, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4. The speakers include, *in the afternoon*, Mrs. Fletcher Moorshead, the Rev. F. Hildebrand, Ph.D., Miss L. Topping, S.R.N., and Miss Mary Weller, S.R.N.; *in the evening*, Professor John Kirk, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.E., Miss Eileen B. Snow, M.B., B.S. (of Amritsar, India), and the Rev. Geoffrey Rogers.

THE GNAT TRIES TO SWALLOW THE CAMEL.

It is truly significant that Registered Nurses fail so completely to grasp the relative positions of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and any association of nurses affiliated to it. This is patent, as some nurses are writing to their papers urging that the National Council should be "taken over" by the Royal College of Nursing (which is only one affiliated organisation out of over 50).

For the benefit of those who do not understand, we should like to point out that the National Council is a federation of all Nurses' Associations and Nurses' Leagues whose membership is over 50, and who agree to abide by the rules of the Council and pay their dues and "per capita" fees. Affiliation to the Council confers the privilege of sending delegates to the annual meetings of the National Council, which are held in London, with full voting powers. Thus minority organisations have a voice on this most democratic "Nurses' Parliament."

It is now evident that were any one organisation of nurses, be it large or small, able to monopolise or "take over" the Council, it would be permitting such an organisation to grasp complete control of the whole Nursing Profession, which, we hope our readers will agree, is most undesirable, and retrograde.

Q.A.I.M.N.S./T.A.N.S. MEMORIAL, 1939-45.

We have been informed by the Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S., that a Memorial to Army Sisters, as distinct from the Westminster Abbey British Empire Nurses Memorial for all Nurses, is now desired by Army Sisters themselves. Mrs. Wilkinson, S.R.N. (Matron-in-Chief), has emphasised that free-will offerings only are desired, and that no money-raising entertainments for the benefit of this fund be initiated.

We are proud to bring this fund to the notice of our readers, fully realising that we do not need to stress its fulfilment. Our Army Sisters sustained heavy casualties, and they suffered tremendous inconvenience and faced grave dangers in their utter devotion to duty, both on land and on sea. It is only fitting that those heroines, who gave their lives that others might live, should have their deeds recorded in history, by means of a suitable memorial.

Subscriptions should be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary, Army Sisters' Memorial, c/o Matron-in-Chief, War Office, London.

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