SEPTEMBER, 1951

A Shakespearian Feast.

Those who were fortunate enough to be of the large audience at the Festival production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," held in Reigate Park, witnessed a superb interpretation of this charming Shakespearian play.

The lovely Priory grounds, richly clad with great trees made a perfect setting for an open-air theatre, and of this unique beauty the genius of the producer, Mr. Francis Edwards, took full advantage.

Especially delightful were the children, gathered from local dancing classes and tutored by Miss Ambrose, in fairy frolics; they were fairies indeed, as in perfect time, they frolicked to the rhythm of Mendelssohn's music.

Space, we regret does not permit of the detailed description deserving of this enchanting amateur performance in which a masterly producer brought skilled training and much talent to such satisfying fruition. A. S. B.

First Victoria State Nursing Adviser.

Miss Jane Muntz, who spent six months in the United Kingdom in 1948 and 1949 studying public health administration, with a British Council bursary and under arrangements made by the Royal College of Nursing, has been appointed Nursing Adviser to the State Minister of Health, Victoria, Australia. The post is a new one and Miss Muntz will advise on all matters and problems relating to the training of women and men in all branches of nursing.

First New Post-war Home for Old People Opened.

The first home specially built since the war for old people —Plumstead Lodge, Plumstead, S.E.—was opened on Friday, July 20th by the Minister of Health. It has been built by the L.C.C. and has accommodation for 90 residents.

"When we passed that National Assistance Act of 1948 we abolished the Poor Law," said Mr. Marquand. "Now we are sweeping away the Poor Law atmosphere. At the beginning of this century Booth and the Webbs taught us that age was the chief cause of poverty. The aged poor were segregated in barrack-like buildings and forgotten. Now some of the old buildings are being turned into pleasant dwellings instead of grim institutions."

Letters to the Editor.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

17, Portland Place, W.1. July 27th, 1951.

The Editor,

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. DEAR EDITOR,

May I again ask for the courtesy of your correspondence columns to thank publicly all those members of the nursing profession, the National Health Services, week-end hostesses and other friends who helped us to make arrangements for the Festival Study Tour in June and July, and particularly Miss J. Addison, Matron of the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, the Chairman, the House Governor, and the Management Committee for their kind help with accommodation which alone made this extra course possible for those we could not accept for the September course. We can best convey our sense of gratitude to you by quoting from one of the letters we have received; a Danish Matron writes :-- "To the National Council of Nurses a hearty thanks for the most inspiring international course for nurses in June-July. It was an instructive fortnight together with colleagues. Our visits to hospitals and other institutions were all so well arranged; everywhere we felt a goodwill towards the National Council, by which we profited. Doctors, Matrons, house governors and sisters were all eager and interested in giving information and particulars as to their various work, thus giving us new thoughts and inspiration, which in future will help in the daily work, wherever it may be. Personally I shall lecture in detail on the course to colleagues in my country. The heartiness, gallant spirit and industry we experienced confirmed the impression that present difficulties for our countries and profession can be dealt with and to a certain degree overcome."

This typical letter expresses how much the Board of Directors owes to the willing co-operation of our member societies and shows that the assistance you have so kindly given us will bear fruit probably beyond its obvious limits. Again thanking everyone concerned and looking forward with renewed confidence to the visit of the larger group in September.

Yours sincerely, KATHERINE F. ARMSTRONG, President, National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Portrait of Grannie. By Tony Shadrack.

I had a Grannie long ago-Whose silver hair I did not know-Would someday vanish, and the wrinkled face, And the eyes that twinkled ever glorious, find other place. A place, where I that had loved her so-Could not be taken, could perhaps never go. I have no Grannie now, And yet I think that perhaps somehow-In that small portrait there, There is a little part of me, where-All that I have that's best must be : And in that tiny chest, I know, is Grannie. I had a lovely Grannie once, And though I tried I could not understand-Why all that was so gentle, kind, and even grand— Should pass away. Was that God's way? And didn't he know how I loved her to stay, And read me stories by my bed, Yes, I think he heard, I think he heard what I said. Because sometimes in my dreamland in the blue, I see those kindly smiling eyes, and I too-Can realise, she was too good to stay; I had a Grannie once, she went away.





