

The Nursing Mirror

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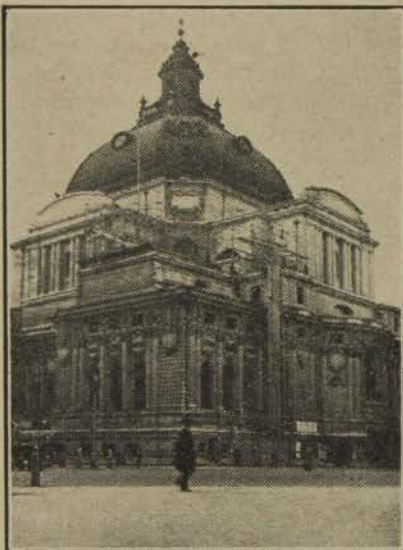
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Dorset House, Stamford Street, S.E.1

News from the Nursing World

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The Central Hall at Westminster Where the Sessions of the International Congress Will be Held.

THE International Congress opens its week from July 18 to 24 with special services at St. Paul's and Westminster Cathedral. The conferences start on Monday, 19th, when the Princess Royal will honour the Central Hall, Westminster, with her presence. These conferences are in four sections, each with its own subject, and full details are given on page 368 of this issue. There are a number of exciting social events—garden parties, cocktail parties and tea parties, at hospitals and clubs all around London. The greatest of these is the visit to Buckingham Palace on July 20, when the members of the Grand Council are graciously to be received by Queen Elizabeth and Queen Mary. Another historic event will be the reception of a thousand nurses at the Palace of Westminster, with the Lord Great Chamberlain,

the Earl of Ancaster, as host, refreshments being served on the Terrace, and the House of Lords and the House of Commons thrown open for the inspection of the guests. The Lord Mayor of London is entertaining on Saturday, July 24, at the Guildhall. The College of Nursing has organised a pageant of nursing at the Scala Theatre: the first Florence Nightingale oration will be read on July 21, in the evening, at the Central Hall. Pappworth and Halton will be among the hospitals visited: the London Hospital and Guy's are giving garden parties. It will truly be a remarkable week and one to remember for years to come. Full accounts of proceedings will be published in "The Nursing Mirror."

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The presentation of prizes to international students, always a very happy event, was this year naturally of even more interest than usual, since a large number of the foreign delegates to the International Congress were present, having come to England some days previous to the start of the great event. The students were, of course, overjoyed to see them. Bedford College is very pleasant in summer, and the day being warm and sunny, light frocks were to the fore—and so were appetites when it came to strawberries and cream at tea-time! The prizes were this year very suitably presented by Dr. Alma Sundquist, who is the president of the Medical Women's International Association, while everyone was pleased to see the familiar figure of Sir Arthur Stanley in the chair and to hear the addresses given by Mrs. Cecil Carter, chief of the nursing division of the League of Red Cross Societies, and by Miss G. E. M. Jebb, the principal of Bedford College. The votes of thanks to Dr. Sundquist were proposed by a student from Norway, Miss Borghild

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Kessell, and seconded by Miss C. Elizabeth Sage, from Canada. Both of these received certificates, which were also awarded to Miss Majsa Andrell, of Sweden, Miss Katy Blagoeva, of Bulgaria, Miss Mary Welch, Miss D. C. Bridges, and Miss K. M. Perkins, of Great Britain, Miss Saman Bunyavitr, of Siam, Miss Ludmila Fantova, of Czechoslovakia, Miss Maja Foget, of Denmark, Miss Karin Gadd, of Finland, Miss Ingeborg Hantsch, of Austria, Miss N. E. Howey and Miss Sadie Williams, of Canada, Miss Audrey L. Iorns, of New Zealand, Miss Emily de Klerk, of South Africa, Miss C. F. Russell, of the Irish Free State, and Miss Lulu Wolf, of U.S.A.

"MARINA MARY"

Last Thursday the seaside town of Lowestoft in Suffolk was honoured by a visit from Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent when she laid the foundation stone of the much-needed nurses' home for the hospital. It was a lovely day, and crowds of enthusiastic townspeople, their numbers reinforced by many summer visitors, gave the Duchess a great welcome. After the ceremony and the reception of



Making His Bow to the Duchess.

purses, she made a brief tour of the wards, and charmed the patients, especially the children, with her simple friendliness. Later she had tea with the matron, Miss K. E. J. Chapman, in her sitting-room, where she heard that in the maternity ward a young fisherman's wife was eagerly awaiting her first baby. "If it's a boy I hope it will be called George, and if it's a girl, Marina," was the Duchess's comment. The patient was, of course, delighted to hear of the Royal interest, and now we learn that her baby has arrived. It is a little girl, weighing 4 lbs., and is to be christened "Marina Mary."

SORE THROATS IN DUBLIN

In a recent report from the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, an account is given of a serious outbreak of hæmolytic streptococcal sepsis in March and April. Fourteen patients were affected and there were four deaths, a mortality of 28 per cent. The report points out that extensive building alterations were taking place in the hospital at that time, and that it was therefore difficult to maintain general cleanliness. The outbreak also coincided with a severe epidemic of streptococcal throats in both the hospital and the city. In

seven of the fourteen cases there was no vaginal interference of any kind. Six of them started in the same puerperal ward, and eight were in direct contact with droplet or spray infection from a positive streptococcal throat. Prior to the outbreak it was not customary for nurses at the Rotunda to wear masks, but following the epidemic their use has been made compulsory for all those conducting cases in the labour wards and all engaged in swabbing patients in the lying-in wards. It is further suggested that the question of spray and droplet infection is not sufficiently stressed in the rules of the Central Midwives' Board, and that under Rule 9a the infective danger of sore throats and colds should be clearly stated.

X-RAYING HIS WIFE'S HEART

It is not every medical man who possesses such a scientific outlook as the friend of Dr. Eric Wittkower, of Berlin, whose paper on the influence of emotions on bodily functions was read recently before the Royal Society of Medicine. Dr. Wittkower stated that this friend had a wife who suffered from heart attacks during matrimonial quarrels. The husband, being interested in the effect of emotion upon bodily functions, proceeded to take an X-ray picture of her heart during such an argument and found it distinctly smaller than normal. In other persons an enlargement of more than 1 cm. in diameter has been recorded. We do not know how the experiment was carried out, but it seems more than likely that the wife's anger was increased rather than diminished by this calm scientific outlook on her wrath. Did the medical man in question get a portable X-ray apparatus ready, prepare his wife, and then proceed to raise a well-worn topic which he knew would infuriate her? Or did he keep the apparatus set up in case of such an event occurring? It would be interesting, if he chose the former method of deliberate provocation, to know what bone of contention he raised to bring about so marked a success.

THE GUESSING HABIT

In a recent broadcast by Lieut.-Col. Mervyn O'Gorman on traffic problems, with special reference to the increase of motor vehicles upon the roads, it was stated that little was known about the actual reasons for accidents. The question should not be "Was it due to the pedestrian or was it due to the driver?" but rather, "What was it that made these two individuals act in the way that they did?" It seemed, according to the speaker, that the rules and regulations for road traffic merely guessed at the cause. In like manner doctors and nurses sometimes guess, or they appear to do so, both at the cause of a disease and also at its diagnosis. Now guessing is a habit that grows like weeds, but it is fatal to true success, besides being demoralising to the guesser. To guess, for instance, the action of a drug, or the course of an artery, or the symptoms of chorea, unless one really knows, is not only hazardous at an examination, but in practice may