

A Young Man Trains to Aid Queen

By EVELYN IRONS

The younger members of the Royal Family will soon be reaching the age when they will be able to help Her Majesty to bear the burden of public duties.

So said the House of Commons Select Committee which, recommending £450,000 a year for the Queen's household, emphasised that every effort is being made to reduce the "formidable" weight of the Sovereign's work.

Two junior Royalties have already been training for this work. They are the Duke of Kent, who will be 17 in October, and his sister, Princess Alexandra, who was 15 last Christmas Day.

Until recently the Duchess of Kent never allowed her two children to appear in public. Both are beginning to learn the technique of Royal appearances.

The Duke of Kent is being taken in hand by Prince Philip. They flew to Oslo on July 18 to visit King Haakon of Norway and then went on to stay with the King and Queen of Sweden.

From these journeys the young Duke will be expected to pick up plenty of tips on how a Royal Prince should behave in public; a friendly smile for everyone—a ready handshake—the right remark at the right time for the right person.

LIKE HIS FATHER

Prince Philip and the Duke of Kent have been on a joint assignment before. Three months ago they went to see new secret aero-engines at the Napier works at Acton.

The boy is growing physically more and more like his father, and he is like him in his tastes, too.

The late Duke of Kent was a qualified factory inspector; his son is already showing an interest in industrial problems. One of his best

already showing an interest in industrial problems. One of his best school subjects is mathematics.

It may be two years before the young Duke undertakes public engagements by himself. But his services are needed urgently. The death of King George VI left only two Royal princes to cope with the swelling list of duties, the Duke of Gloucester and Prince Philip.

When the Duke of Kent joins the team the men of the family will be able to relieve the Queen of some of her heavy responsibilities.

EMPIRE TOUR

Soon the Duchess of Kent is taking her son on his first Empire tour. In October they go to Singapore as guests of the Government, fulfil a number of functions, then go up country to visit the 1st Battalion of the Royal West Kent Regiment, of which the Duchess is Colonel-in-Chief.

Laer they go to Sarawak, Brunei, North Borneo and Hong Kong. This will be an important step in the Duke's grooming for Royal stardom—so important that he is getting special leave from his Swiss school.

What about his health? People wonder, remembering that he had to leave Eton for a school in Switzerland because of serious sinus trouble.

The answer is that since he went to Le Rosey School at Rolle, overlooking Lake Geneva, last September he has been very much better. He will stay there for at least another year. By that time, if he improves at the present rate, he should be cured or nearly cured of the hay

be cured or nearly cured of the hay fever which handicapped him at Eton.

Also he should be fit for national service when the time comes. He will most likely follow his father to the RAF.

Princess Alexandra, although she is a year younger, is also beginning to appear in public. The first time was three months ago, when she went with her mother to a presentation of bravery awards to lifeboatmen.

In May the Duchess took her to the Albert Hall for the Boys' Brigade display. Last month she went with her mother on a tour of depots on Alexandra Rose Day.

Princess Alexandra is growing very tall—she is 5ft. 7in.—and has grey-green eyes.

She is less "streamlined" than the elegant Duchess of Kent, but she will probably fine down as she grows up.

Like her brother, she has a natural easy way with people; none of

the Kent children (and that goes for 10-year-old Prince Michael, too) suffers from overshyhness.

STILL AT SCHOOL

The Princess is still at exclusive Heathfield School, Ascot. But she has already been to a West End dress show and ordered dresses for herself. And this term she has been given a few weeks off for an educational tour in France which her mother planned as part of her training for royalty.

When she comes back from a summer holiday in Scotland with her mother, Princess Alexandra will probably be seen more and more. For she, too, will be expected to help to share the Queen's duties as soon as she is old enough.

Neither the Princess nor her elder brother is keen on team games. The Duke of Kent likes ski-ing, mountain climbing and sailing on Lake Geneva.

Geneva.

The Princess, like the Queen, is first and foremost a horsewoman. She has won many prizes at local gymkhanas with her pony Trustful, and has competed at the International Horse Show. Lately she has taken up tennis.

Neither the children nor their mother get any money from the Civil List.

But the Commons Committee report suggested an extra £25000 a year for the Queen for paying the expenses of relatives who carry out Royal duties. In that case there should be a share for the Kents.

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