

THE Fifth Conversazione of the Royal British Nurses' Association, which was held on the 7th inst., was, perhaps, almost the most successful and enjoyable of all its successful and pleasant birthday gatherings. Every one was there early, and although the hour had been altered from 9 o'clock—at which previous gatherings had commenced—to 8.30, long before this time there was a steady stream of Nurses passing up the broad staircase and into the handsome galleries of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours. They were received in the East Gallery by Mr. PICK, the well-known and popular Surgeon to St. George's Hospital, and Miss STEWART, the Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital—Sir JAMES CRICHTON-BROWN and Miss THOROLD, who with Mr. PICK are the Vice-Chairmen of the Association's Committee and Council, being both unavoidably absent; the latter, all Nurses will deeply regret to hear, owing to ill health. Because there is probably no Matron who is so generally and so highly respected as the lady who has so long and so wisely ruled over the Nursing Department of the Middlesex Hospital. I am sure all my readers will join with me in earnestly hoping that Miss THOROLD will speedily recover her health and strength.

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ONE side of the East Gallery was entirely devoted to a buffet, which, except for a brief time, twice during the evening, was thronged by a crowd which did full justice to the toothsome dainties, not only of the best possible quality, but most artistically served. I observed that this Department had been confided to the Oriental Association, of Old Cavendish Street, which has deservedly earned for itself high repute in catering for similar entertainments. At the end of this Gallery, the Secretary's room had been gracefully draped and arranged for the accommodation of the President and her suite. Near the door of this room is the opening into the Central Gallery, which, in its turn, leads into the West Gallery, in which, on a small platform, the Bijou Orchestra was placed and discoursed sweet melodies during the evening. The West Gallery, like the East room, opens upon the landing at the head of the main staircase.

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To this landing, between 8.30 and 9 o'clock, came the various Members who had recently applied for badges, and who were able to avail themselves of the opportunity kindly offered by their President to receive this decoration from herself. Then they

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were directed to station themselves on the left side of the platform in the West Gallery, where Miss GRACE GORDON marshalled them in due order, and gave them the necessary instructions. At a quarter to ten, the platform was cleared, the members of the Executive Committee went out to the staircase to receive Her Royal Highness, and everyone else crowded into the West Gallery. A few minutes later, the band struck up the National Anthem and Princess CHRISTIAN arrived. She was presented by Miss HOGG, the Head Sister of the Royal Naval Nursing Service, on behalf of the Executive Committee, with a beautiful bouquet, the Princess VICTORIA, who accompanied her, also being presented with one by Nurse NOBLE, of the Chelsea Infirmary, on behalf of the Nurses. Baroness VON EGLOFFSTEIN and Colonel ELLIOTT were in attendance.

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PASSING up the West Gallery, Her Royal Highness and suite took their places upon the platform, and each Nurse coming up, had her badge pinned upon her dress by the Princess. This only lasted a few minutes, after which Her Royal Highness had a number of London and Provincial Hospital Matrons presented to her. After walking round the galleries and admiring some of the beautiful pictures with which their walls are hung, and talking for a while to Lady JEUNE, Lord and Lady HALSBURY, Dr. and Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK, Sir EDWARD SIEVEKING, Mr. PICK, Dr. BEZLY THORNE, and others, the President and her party went into the Secretary's room, where tea and coffee were served.

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MEANWHILE, the Band was again playing, the Refreshment tables were again in request, and a number of distinguished medical men and other guests were arriving, all of whom seemed to appreciate the unique appearance of the gathering. Dr. JOHN WILLIAMS, Dr. DOUGLAS POWELL, Dr. PRIESTLEY, Sir SPENCER WELLS, Professor LANKESTER, and many other notabilities, were to be seen on every side. And considerable amusement was felt by those who observed Sir RICHARD WEBSTER talking to Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK, and recalled the indictment that Her Majesty's late Attorney-General had, only ten days before, brought against this well-known lady, that she had been the chief mover in the "agitation" for Registration, which he was then "instructed" to curse by bell, book, and candle. I hope Sir RICHARD went away convinced that the Nurses were not quite so wildly revolutionary as he then endeavoured to prove them to be.

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