

energy which the movement required, and to enable us to place a complete and unanswerable case before the public. (Applause.) So here we are this evening, with the opportunity at our feet to better signalise our success by using it well and truly and faithfully. Let us, by all means, have the keenest and most searching criticism—something, if possible, better than that which has already been vouchsafed to us, (Laughter.) This Charter has been granted largely upon the strength of the character of those supporting the prayer for it, in the faith that they will well and truly carry out the obligations that it imposes; so, I say, ladies and gentlemen, let the scope of our opportunity be the measure of our responsibilities, and let us see to it, and work for it, that in time to come the British Nurses' Association will be everywhere recognized in its three-fold purpose to do good to the Nurses' themselves, in their lives, and character, and work; to do good to the medical profession, which depends so largely upon their help; and to do good to the public—not only to those who come under the Nurse's care, but all who are interested in keeping sickness and disease at bay. I am happy this evening in the number of those present who might fairly be called upon to represent this Association, and respond to this toast; but, I am sure, you will all agree with me that I choose well and wisely when I couple with it the name of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. (Loud applause.) Fortunately, I can well spare her the pain of dilating at any length in her presence upon what she has done for this Association, for the history of the Association is really the record of her work. (Applause.) Every page of it bears the impress of her spirit, her energy, her ability, and her wisdom. (Applause.) I ask you, then, as I have no doubt you will, to drink most heartily to this toast of "Success to the Association," and to offer to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick our congratulations upon her success. (Applause.)

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK said: Sir William Savory, ladies and gentlemen, I have been entrusted with the honour and the privilege of responding to this toast on behalf of our Chartered Corporation. I am sure that I am expressing the unanimous opinion of my colleagues when I say that the eloquent words in which the toast has been proposed, and the enthusiastic manner in which it has been received, will be of the greatest encouragement to us all in the difficult duties which will now devolve upon us. Because, it cannot be disputed that the Royal Charter, while, practically, uniting Nurses into an incorporated profession, has made it essential that efficient systems of education, organization, and control of the members of the profession must now be decided upon. Our first great need, I believe, is that the true spirit of Nursing should be regained—the spirit of complete self-sacrifice and tender devotion to the sick which animated the religious sisterhoods of old—which is by no means absent even now, but which I fear is in serious risk of being stifled by the commercial attitude which many Hospitals adopt towards their Nurses at the present day, treating them, to all intents and purposes, as a profitable source of income. All who have at heart the best interests alike of Nurses and the public—for they are identical—should endeavour to avert this growing danger. Women are very adaptive. Give them a high ideal of duty and they will strive to live up to it; treat them as mere money-making machines and the ideal will inevitably be lost in the material. (Applause.) Closely associated with this, is another matter upon which I am glad of the opportunity to say a few words. The amount which the public is now content to pay for the services of a trained Nurse is equal to, or larger than, the stipend received by the majority of curates after a long and very expensive school and university

education, or the salary paid to a highly-cultured Governess after a costly collegiate training. But, at present, most Nurses obtain their education for nothing, and thus Hospitals find the pretext for utilizing their services for making profits for the Institutions. It appears to me that, in future, Nurses will be called upon to pay for their education exactly as all other students do; that then they will be able to demand a regular and systematic training, to the greater benefit of themselves and of the public; that then the many grounds of complaint, which at present exist, will be swept away, to the heartfelt satisfaction of everyone to whom the reputation of our Hospitals is dear. In bringing about these and many other improvements which are necessary, the Chartered Association will, I hope, take its due share, and, strengthened by the success which it has already achieved, will strive to steadfastly and truly perform the responsibilities and duties of its future work. (Loud and prolonged applause.)

Miss ISLA STEWART (Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital) said: Sir William Savory, ladies and gentlemen, it is with a deep sense of my inability to do justice to this toast that I rise to propose the health of "The Medical Profession." From the commencement of our Association until now, when we meet to celebrate our great success in obtaining a Royal Charter, the medical profession, including some of its most distinguished members, have been our guides, philosophers, and friends. (Applause.) When we first thought of creating an Association which would protect thoroughly trained Nurses, and give them a recognised status, we naturally turned to that profession, and we did not turn to them in vain. The kindness, aid, wise counsel, and judicious advice which we have received from so many of them has far outweighed the opposition, however determined, which we have encountered from a small minority. (Applause.) The material help they have given us, the interest they have taken in our welfare, was no more than we should have expected from a profession whose members are distinguished for their kindness, courtesy, and readiness to help those who are in need of help. (Applause.) Those who have devoted their time and influence to advance our course will reap their reward in our gratitude, and in the knowledge of the blessing they have conferred upon Nurses, and, I think I may add, upon their patients also. (Applause.) Speaking in the name of the Nursing profession, I may say, truly, that we fully recognise the important part that the medical profession have played in the success of the Association—(applause)—and, therefore, I ask that you will, one and all, join with me, with the utmost enthusiasm, in the toast that I now give you, and which I couple with the distinguished name of Sir Dyce Duckworth, the Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, who has been our friend and adviser from the very commencement of the Association, and who has, more than once, practically shown the interest which he takes in our welfare by what he has done for us. (Applause.)

Sir DYCE DUCKWORTH, in reply, said: Sir William Savory, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I may well think myself honoured at being asked to stand before you, as I do at this moment, to try, as well as I can, to represent Sir Richard Quain—(applause)—who, owing to his health not being too satisfactory, was not able to be here in our midst to-night; and I am heartily sorry for that, sir, for many reasons. I am sure we should all have been glad to see him, and if he had been here he would now have been on his legs, and he would have spoken cordially and heartily in support of the good work that has been, and still is to be, accomplished by this great Association. (Applause.) But at all events, we know for certain that we have Sir Richard Quain's good wishes, and that we have his interest and his entire concurrence in all the doings of this Association. In trying very

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