

## Royal British Nurses' Association.

**D**INNER, to celebrate the grant of a Royal Charter to the Association, was held on Monday, the 17th inst., at the Whitehall Rooms of the Hotel Métropole, when a large and eminently representative gathering took place. The chair was taken by Sir William Savory, Bart., F.R.S., and the following, of whom most were present, had, amongst many others, expressed their intention to attend:—Sir Trevor Lawrence, Bart., (Treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital), Sir Spencer Wells, Bart., Sir Richard Quain, Bart., Sir Joseph Fayrer, K.C.S.I., Sir Henry Thompson, Sir Edward Sieveking, Sir Dyce and Lady Duckworth, Sir James and Lady Crichton-Browne, Sir Edwin and Lady Saunders, Mr. and Mrs. Brudenell Carter, Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Dr. and Miss. Bezly Thorne, Dr. and Mrs. Gage-Brown, Mr. Thos. Smith, Dr. Church, Dr. Pavy, Dr. Alderson, Dr. Schofield, Miss Isla Stewart, Miss Cureton, and a large number of other well-known Matrons and Nurses.

The toast of "The Queen" having been accepted with enthusiasm,

The CHAIRMAN said: The Prince of Wales, as heir to the Throne, commands a large share of the respect and affection of the people. He justifies our expectations and inherits the great qualities of his race in their relation to a constitutional freedom, and he wins the goodwill of the country by the wise interest that he takes in all public affairs. (Applause.) The Princess of Wales has more than fulfilled the promise which long ago was implied in the welcome which she received on reaching our shores. All hearts were open to her, and she took possession of them all. May she long reign there, the uncrowned Queen of Hearts. (Applause.) The other Princes and Princesses are distinguished by the zeal with which they take up all matters of public concern, and the way in which they devote themselves to the good of the people, as to duties incident to their high position and their relation to the Throne. I ask you to drink to the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the other members of the Royal Family, not forgetting a good wish for the bride and bridegroom. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN, again rising, said: If there is one toast more than another that would command the hearty enthusiasm of this company, it is surely that of the health of the illustrious lady who must have been in all our thoughts, as an example of those virtues of which I have ventured to speak—I mean, of course, Her Royal Highness the Princess Christian. (Applause.) Her Royal Highness has been, throughout, the head of the Association, and she has inspired those movements which have led to such brilliant results. (Applause.) She has not only given the authority and influence of her name, but she has taken up the cause with all her heart. Not content to stand aloof and direct our steps, she has condescended to work hard, and to fight hard,

with all the devotion of a woman, and with all the courage of her race. (Applause.) The deep personal interest which the Princess has evinced in this Association, has brought about, not only those great results which must ever be produced by noble work, but her example has drawn us all more closely together, and concentrated the energy of all into one common aim and purpose. We will, indeed, if you please, drink heartily to this toast; but we shall best acknowledge the great interest which her Royal Highness has been pleased to take in this Association, by carrying out the work which has been so auspiciously commenced, to its full completeness. I give you the health of Her Royal Highness, the President of this Association. (Applause.)

SIR JAMES CRICHTON BROWNE: Ladies and gentlemen, —I recollect hearing a story told by one who was a member of our last expeditionary force to China. He had a conversation with a wounded Chinese soldier in the English Hospital there, and that soldier said to him: "What I can't understand in you English is your inconsistency. You sent out your artillery and they pounded me, your infantry and they put bullets in me, your cavalry and they slashed me with their swords; and then, when I lay wounded on the field, and saw another party of Englishmen coming towards me, of course I thought they meant to kill me; but not at all; they gave me some cordial, they tenderly bandaged me, they lifted me upon a litter, and they carried me into this comfortable house, where I have been ever since nursed and tended by beautiful ladies." (Applause.) Now, ladies and gentlemen, without endeavouring to explain, I think I may venture to affirm that we rejoice that, in the progress of civilisation we have attained to the inconsistency that puzzled the heathen Chinese. I think we regard with satisfaction the fact that "grim-visaged war hath smoothed his wrinkled front," and that if the instruments and weapons of destruction in battle are more formidable and destructive than ever before, means of alleviation for those who suffer from them are provided in a way never dreamed of in former days. Behind the heart-rending figure of Bellona—represented, by the way, in this year's exhibition of the Royal Academy—with helmet on head, with up-lifted arm, and with dripping sword—behind that figure of Bellona we can now discern another figure, that of a gentle woman, with compassion on her countenance, and healing in her skilful hand. (Applause.) In proposing "The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces," on an occasion like the present—and this is the toast that I am instructed to propose to you—in proposing the health of these services, it is impossible to think of them save in association with the other service made up of the hand-maidens of humanity, who aid and succour the soldiers in those dark hours after the heat and flush of battle are over—(applause)—or that other service, in itself an army, constantly combating the implacable enemy disease, an army with its well-drilled battalions in our hospitals, and with its sentries in many a sad and silent city. But, to deal more directly with the subject of my toast, I would ask you to drink with warm admiration to the navy, with admiration of those heroic qualities that have illustrated its history in the old days of wooden walls, qualities that are not less conspicuous now when the fighting is done behind bulwarks of iron, qualities that shone forth in their old brilliance in the recent painful catastrophe that we all so much deplored, when men and boys alike exhibited great bravery, devotion

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