

Mr. J. Ross Robertson, of Toronto, has, through his splendid munificence, and his sympathetic interest in the sick children of that beautiful city, become known as a munificent magician where they are concerned, and his latest benefaction, his princely donation, made to the Victoria Hospital for Children, of a commodious Residence for nurses, erected, furnished, and equipped at his sole expense, is likely to keep his memory green, when many of his generous actions—always performed with modesty and simplicity—are forgotten.

The opening ceremonies were conducted with little pomp and ceremony, although many eminent people were present. As they entered the building the guests were invited to make a thorough inspection, and none failed to admire the completeness and beauty of the equipment. Its perfect adaptation to the purposes for which it has been built was the subject of eulogy on all sides. The speaking took place in the reception-room to the east of the main entrance, where the Lady Superintendent, Miss Louise C. Brent, and the nurses welcomed the visitors, and the nurses, through Miss Nicholls, presented Mr. Robertson with a beautifully illuminated address, to which he responded in the kindest manner.

In his speech, Mr. Robertson said he had heard it suggested that the housing of nurses had been over-done, and that their surroundings were not in keeping with the simple life. Still the demands made upon these women were inflexible, and nothing could be done to shorten their daily round or lessen their duty. These women came from good homes, and without recompense gave three years of their daily lives to help the hospital, and the new building represented an effort to do something to increase their comfort. "The best that could be done was none too good for the nurses," said Mr. Robertson, and he remarked that there was no nobler type of womankind even in this land of noble women. He felt that the hospital would get its reward for what had been done for the nurses.

A great feature of this interesting function was the presence of the following seven Lady Superintendents from New York city hospitals: Miss Rykert, of the Post Graduate Hospital; Miss Wilson, of St. Luke's Hospital; Miss Rogers, Superintendent of the Nurse Inspectors of the Public Schools; Miss Samuel of the Roosevelt Hospital; Miss Smith, of the Babies' Hospital; Miss Annie Goodrich, of the New York Allied Hospitals; and Miss Hutchison, of the Sloane Maternity Hospital. They were met by representatives of the Vic-

toria Hospital, and escorted to the new Residence. While in the city they were the guests of Mr. J. Ross Robertson.

A correspondent writes:—

"The opening of the new Nurses' Residence in connection with the Children's Hospital here was a great success. It is a very beautiful building, and well worth a trip across the Atlantic to see it. I may say that as you read the names of the Superintendents of the New York Schools who were present, there will be nothing to tell you that when Mr. Robertson sent invitations to these ladies he also sent transportation, and they came to Toronto in a special Pullman car by the New York express. All the honour that could be paid to them. Amongst minor entertainments in their honour was a luncheon given by Miss Agnes Snively, of the General Hospital, the *doyenne* of modern nursing in Canada."

The *Canadian Nurse* has a finely illustrated article on the new Residence, and, to quote the index to plans, will show how every detail for the well-being of the nursing staff has been considered. Amongst the rooms we find waiting room, drawing room, reception room, sitting room, lecture hall, music room, writing room, library, medical library, bath room, dressing room, swimming bath, shower bath, and gymnasium with roof garden above it.

The international delegates to the Buffalo Conference in 1901 have the most pleasant memories of Mr. J. Ross Robertson's kind hospitality during their short, yet most enjoyable visit to Toronto. We congratulate Canadian nurses on their good fortune in possessing so sincere a friend.

### State Registration at the Royal United Hospital, Bath.

Miss Mary Burr, a Vice-President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, gave an interesting address on this subject in the Board Room of the Royal United Hospital, Bath, on Saturday last, when the following resolution was passed:

"That this meeting supports the Petition to the Right Hon. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, to make the State Registration of Trained Nurses a Government Measure."

The meeting was well attended, the majority of local Matrons and Heads of Nursing Institutions were present on the invitation of the Matron of the Hospital, Miss S. E. Polden, who is a warm supporter of State Registration for Nurses, and Miss Burr, who thoroughly knows her subject, and spoke well and feelingly, was accorded an attentive hearing.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)