

The Banquet to Miss Isla Stewart.

Never has a more enthusiastic gathering of nurses taken place than that which assembled on Saturday evening last to do homage to Miss Isla Stewart, at the Complimentary Dinner at the Gaiety Restaurant, arranged in her honour by the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, of which she is President. The occasion marked the completion of her 21 years of office as Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and the appreciation by her colleagues of the value of her public work for the nursing profession.

The arrangements were admirably made, and the entire credit for them must be given to Mrs. Walter Spencer, who acted as Organising Secretary.

The guests, numbering upwards of 200, assembled in the beautiful reception room, decorated in Adam style in pale green and white, which proved a charming background to all the tasteful gowns. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the Chairman, and Miss Isla Stewart received the guests. Miss Stewart held the lovely bouquet of carnations presented to her by the Bart's League in the afternoon, and her sister, Miss Janet Stewart, the bouquet presented to her by the Kingston Nurses' League.

Dinner was served in the Georgian Hall, the London Concert Orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Algernon Clarke, enlivening the proceedings. The scene was a brilliant one, as the company took their places. The table at which the Chairman presided occupied the entire length of the Hall, and at right angles to this were tables presided over by Miss A. Barling, Miss Mollett, Miss G. A. Rogers, Mrs. Walter Spencer, Miss Huxley, and Miss M. Breay.

Miss Stewart, as the guest of the evening, was placed at Mrs. Fenwick's right hand, and amongst those who had assembled to do her honour were M. André Mesureur, *Chef du Cabinet du Directeur de l'Assistance Publique*, Paris, Mme. Alphen Salvador, President-Foundress of the Nursing School in the Rue Amyot, who also came specially to London to show her appreciation of Miss Stewart's work, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Cripps, Dr. and Mrs. Champneys, Mr. Bruce Clarke, Mr. D'Arcy Power, members of the medical staff of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Dr. Bedford Fenwick, Dr. de Courcy Wheeler, from Dublin, Dr. Kerr, Medical Officer, London County Council, Mr. Walter Spencer, Dr. Hogarth, Miss Keer, Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S.,

R.R.C., and Miss Sidney Browne, late Matron-in-Chief, R.R.C., Miss Finch, Matron University College Hospital, Miss Cox Davies, the newly-elected President of the Bart's League, Matron of the Royal Free Hospital, Miss Helen Pearse, Superintendent of School Nurses under the London County Council, Miss Musson, Matron of the Swansea General Hospital, Mrs. Kildare Treacy, of Dublin, Miss Courtenay Smith, Miss Oram, Q.A.I.M.N.S., R.R.C., Mr. Hayes, Clerk to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, the Lady Hermione Blackwood, Miss Barton, Matron Chelsea Infirmary, Miss Todd, Matron Wandsworth Infirmary, Miss Milne from Philadelphia, Miss Villiers, Matron Fountain Hospital, and many others.

Dinner ended, Mr. Walter Spencer announced a number of congratulatory telegrams, amongst which was one from Sister Agnes-Karll, President of the German Nurses' Association, conveying warm good wishes.

THE TOASTS.

Then the magnificent Toast Master, all gorgeous in crimson, prayed silence for the Chairman, and Mrs. Fenwick rose to propose the first Toast of the evening, "The King," which was received with musical honours. The second toast was that of "The Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the other members of the Royal Family." Mrs. Fenwick said:—

"Ladies and gentlemen,—The Queen and the Royal Family are ever a popular Toast. Every member of the Royal Family is so intimately associated with the nursing of the sick, and has shown such keen interest in our work, that the Toast is specially apposite upon this occasion. 'Her Gracious Majesty, Queen Alexandra, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the Royal Family.'"

Then came the toast of the evening, the Health of the Guest of Honour, proposed from the chair by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick; and the presentation of an illuminated address.

THE CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

Mrs. Fenwick said:—

Dear Isla Stewart, our Guest of Honour, Ladies and gentlemen,—We have met together this evening to offer our united congratulations to Miss Isla Stewart, upon having attained her majority as Matron and Superintendent of Nursing at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and also to convey to her something of the appreciation of the Nursing Profession at large, that, during a record of nearly thirty years' devoted work for the welfare of the community, she has been for all that time a bright example to the nurses of the world.

Doubtless there are many in this room who

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)