

on getting a good legacy, he returned and offered her " 'is 'and and 'art " ! She did not believe in taking temperatures, which she considered misleading, and got her typhoid patients out of bed every day to make their beds. She despised the nurses' examinations, and did not encourage study. One nurse asked her one day how to feed a baby a year old; she said, " If it is ill, ask the doctor; if well, give it what you have yourself except hard beef and bloaters " !

For more than 23 years I have occupied the position of Matron, for two years under the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and for twenty-one years at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. It was on the 27th June, 1887, on the evening of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, that I arrived. I felt all the luck of it then, but as I look back on those busy, happy years, I marvel at my own good fortune. Not that there have not been difficulties to face, no life worth living is without them, and I followed Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, whose indefatigable energy, and indomitable courage, alone make her a difficult predecessor.

I have worked under three Treasurers and with two Clerks. The three Treasurers were Sir Sydney Waterlow, who guided my young impetuous steps, Sir Trevor Lawrence, and Lord Ludlow, who supported my serious middle life. To work with Mr. Cross, my first Clerk, was a liberal education, and with Mr. Hayes, our present Clerk, a pleasure.

The charm of a nurse's life is its acute human interest, and this is much more the case with a Matron; for in her staff she deals mainly with the young. Colonel Pendennis, that inimitable world-worn cynic, said to his prig of a nephew, " I take my time from young men," and Ibsen told us, as a threat, that the young were knocking at the door. It is to the young that the world belongs, because they can wait. It is in the training of the probationers, in watching their development, that the Matron gets her chief pleasure; it is in association with them that she keeps her youth. It is in dealing with their faults that she finds need of tolerance, and encouraging their efforts that she needs a wide mind, for if she gives much she receives more.

Before sitting down, I must again thank the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland for the great honour they have done me. We have done much good work in the past, and I see very strenuous busy years in the future, when I hope we will work with the same good fellowship.

To you all who have come to pay me the compliment, I kiss your hands.

#### THE SPEECHES.

Space fails us to give at length the speeches which followed, which were remarkable not only for their eloquence but for their warm appreciation of the value of the well-trained nurse.

#### THE NURSING PROFESSION.

The toast of " The Nursing Profession " was appropriately proposed by Mr. Harrison Cripps, Senior Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, who is always generous in his estimate of the work of nurses. The speaker said, in part:

" The modern advances in surgery would have been impossible without the evolution of the nurse. It is impossible that nurses should grasp facts and carry out treatment without scientific training, and for this organisation is absolutely essential. It is possible to do good work as a unit, but directly one begins to work in science it is as part of a whole. The feeling induced by it is that there is no finality to knowledge."

#### THE REPLY.

Miss Mollett, who replied in felicitous terms, said Miss Stewart had stood for that unification of scattered units which had made a profession possible. " I drink," she added, " to the nurses of the whole world, to its last isle, to our sisters of every colour and clime."

#### THE GUESTS.

Mrs. Kildare Treacy, in proposing " The Guests," said: " I have been given a most grateful task this evening, that of proposing the toast of " The Guests," having come over from Ireland with a trefoil of good wishes for our dear principal guest, whom we all are delighted to honour, and to acknowledge our indebtedness for the noble example which she has set us of working fearlessly for the good of our beloved profession, for the independence of thought, and the encouragement of individuality which she has shown." Mrs. Treacy referred with pleasure to the presence of the Matron-in-Chief, and especially to the presence of " our kind hosts last year in Paris, at that ever to be remembered Conference. ' Nous félicitons nous de l'amitié de ces chers voisins.' "

Miss Beatrice Cutler then supported the toast in French, expressing the hope that the *entente cordiale* between French and English nurses would always exist.

M. André Mesureur, *Chef du Cabinet du Directeur de l'Assistance Publique à Paris*, said: " It is not without deep emotion that I rise to respond to the toast, and to apologise for the absence of my father, M. Mesureur, who commissions me to express in his name, and in that of the whole board of the *Assistance Publique* in Paris, their sentiments of regard, and their pleasure, that you have associated us with this Banquet in honour of a most distinguished and honoured matron, Miss Isla Stewart. We well understand the meaning of these manifestations. We consider no vocation more honourable, no work more calculated to bring out the best qualities of womanhood than that of the modern trained nurse. One

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