

good, or to favour any oppressive monopoly. It is, therefore, a great power in the hands of the nurses, and they owe to Her Royal Highness, the President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, a deeper debt than they realise that this priceless and historical document belongs to the Members of the Royal Corporation.

A CHARTER TEA.

The Executive Committee invite members of the Corporation, Members of the Societies affiliated to it and other Trained Nurses to tea at 10, Orchard Street on Tuesday, December 17th, from 3.30 to 6.30 p.m.

Instructions have been given that the Royal Charter shall be brought from the strong room at the Bank so that nurses who would like to see this document, which is of such paramount importance in the present struggle to safeguard their liberties and privileges, may have opportunity for doing so. All trained nurses will be cordially welcomed.

AMERICA AND THE NEW WORLD ORDER.

Mr. Price Bell, Editor of the *Chicago Daily News*, delivered an eloquent lecture on December 5th, under the auspices of the Corporation, at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. Mr. Herbert Paterson occupied the Chair and introduced the distinguished American journalist to the meeting. In commencing, Mr. Price Bell said that, as he was to speak to the members of a large and highly skilled profession, he would make no apology for devoting his remarks, not to anything pertaining to their life work, but to matters political. All who belonged to democratic countries, men and women alike, were politicians now, even the children breathed an air charged with political aspiration and political thought. Democracy had been reborn, and in its veins flowed a new and abounding life. Everyone in these days felt an enormously heightened responsibility for what goes on politically, and democracy was thoroughly out of conceit with secretive leadership and was minded more and more to project its will into the domain of political control.

The lecturer referred to the traditional devotion of America to principles of political and social liberty. She had, as a nation, always been a protagonist of freedom; all her wars had been fought for freedom; and all her threats of war had been in the interests of freedom.

American Democracy, Mr. Bell continued, was enthusiastically for a League of Nations. Cynics had called the proposed League of Nations "a Rainbow." Such persons held that our civilization is to be maintained, if at all, by steel, but the "rainbow" exercised a sure and universal mastery over steel. What was it which won the war against the Hun? Was it steel? Was it the big gun? Was it the aeroplane? Was it any material thing at all? It was the great and beautiful "rain-

bow" of free civilization's invincible ideal. Material weapons were wholly useless, unless behind them, supporting them, wielding them, was that most marvellous of all things—the righteously inspired human soul. "So," said Mr. Bell, "let us not dismiss the League of Nations idea because it is a dream. Personally, I thank God for the women and men of our world who dream dreams; but for them—but for the cooling springs of their prophecy and faith—we should parch and faint in a spiritual Sahara."

Mr. Bell next brought forward contentions based on the history of the great war, to support his belief in a League of Nations. He was aware that statesmen talked a great deal about the difficulties in the way of this great world political conception. He himself wished that they would talk less of those and display more confidence in one another and themselves; that they would be less fearful of the unknown; and remember the dramatic achievements which had come from marching boldly against the unknown. A League of Nations, as defined by Mr. Bell, was a league of law abiders, of respecters of sound morality, and a league of the defenders of the fruits of human progress. We talk much of national honour, but what reason and right ask is simply that we shall be honourable and do what in imperfect human nature lies to realise the supreme doctrine of humanity, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." It was further explained that the proposed League of Nations would not bind any nations except by its treaties. In no way would such a league interfere with the domestic affairs of any single nation by, for instance, dictating as regards its fiscal or defensive policy. Neither would there be any system of subordination, but only one of co-ordination.

Speaking of Bolshevism, Mr. Bell said, "It is a horrible thing; it is civilization on the rack; it is the ghastly negation of everything for which humanity has hoped and prayed and toiled and bled. It is a mirror in which the misguided, callous, avaricious, criminal man may look upon himself. A thousand things, abhorrent to Christianity and to justice—these are the ugly and mis-shapen forebears of Bolshevism."

In Mr. Bell's opinion, British-American solidarity was the corner-stone of free civilization in the world. In closing, he advised his audience to neglect no opportunity by word or act to further such a re-union of our race as shall make it proof against any strain. More certainly than in any other way, this great object can be obtained by mutual tolerance of superficial differences, by mutual words and acts of friendship, by mutual sympathy and respect. All at their various posts of duty, in the Empire and elsewhere, could bear with them a mighty wave of influence for British-American harmony and happiness, and so for the well-being of the world.

The Chairman expressed the appreciation of those present of a brilliant lecture.

(Signed) ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

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