

nurses of 29 countries affiliated in the International Council of Nurses assembled in London, the R.B.N.A. would be celebrating its Jubilee. They must not imagine, however, that the Association had established itself in its House Beautiful without passing through times of stress and storm. Those present from distant lands would realise that the explorers must touch "farthest North," trek through the blue grass and over mountain peaks, thirst in the desert, and like Cassandra cry in the wilderness of many lands—explorers fell by the way, to be followed by pioneers—both knew the joy of adventure and romance, but seldom reaped where they had sown—but to-night as one looked around it was wonderful to see founders of the mother Association of Nurses' Organisations, and with them the younger generation of nurses from so many parts of the world, enjoying the fruits of their labour—we welcome and toast them by name—

Miss Balabanova, Bulgaria; Miss Behrendt, Germany; Miss Demol, France; Miss Grosskopt, South Africa; Miss Kemal, Turkey; Miss Kopstad, Norway; Miss Krohn, Finland; Miss Masten, Canada; Miss Pade, Denmark; Miss Mackay Ross, Canada; Miss Sasburg, Holland; Miss Elizabeth Smith, Canada; Miss Veilands, Latvia; and Miss Zilley, U.S.A.

The Chairman in conclusion, wished them one and all a happy and successful term of study at Florence Nightingale International House and future careers of devoted service. This toast was enthusiastically honoured.

Before resuming our seats, the Chair recalled the names of the outstanding pioneers in International Nursing Organisation:—

Isla Stewart and Margaret Breay, England; Margaret Huxley, Ireland; Isabel Hampton, Lavinia Dock and Adelaide Nutting, U.S.A.; Agnes Snively and Jean Gunn, Canada; Agnes Karll, Germany; Mlle. Chaptal, France; J. C. Lanschot-Hubrecht, Holland; Fru. Tscherning, Denmark; Sophie Mannerheim, Finland; Sister Henrietta of Kimberley, and Bella Gordon Alexander, South Africa; and Sister Bergljot Larsson, Norway.

She needed the names of pioneer nurses in Bulgaria and Turkey, but failing the latter she would name the Ghaz Mustapha Kemal, now named Ataturk (Father of the Turks) whose Parliament had quite recently passed a law enfranchising the women of Turkey on the same terms as men—vanish the Yashmak!

The great and unrivalled Florence Nightingale she acclaimed with veneration.

#### Miss Dorsey's Response.

Miss Nan L. Dorsey, Warden of Florence Nightingale International House, responding to the toast, thanked the Chairman for her kind words. She gave a short account of what Mrs. Fenwick had done as Chairman of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of the International Council of Nurses in arousing interest in the proposed educational memorial to Miss Nightingale, which had materialised as the Florence Nightingale International Foundation—through the combined action of the International Council of Nurses and the League of Red Cross Societies in July last, which was formerly inaugurated at a meeting at 15, Manchester Square.

Miss Dorsey said Mrs. Fenwick was probably even more widely known to the nurses of the world internationally for her pioneer work than nationally, and she closed with the remark that Mrs. Fenwick had put no frontiers to her achievements and labours, and for that reason her work was world wide in its results, and in the inspiration that it spread over all countries in connection with professional nursing organisation and the preservation of health.

#### THE TOAST OF THE R.B.N.A.

Miss G. Mackay Ross, Canada, taking the Banner and its symbolism as the keynote for her remarks, made a most graceful speech in proposing the continued success of the Royal British Nurses' Association, saying that to her it was so wonderful, so full of inspiration to be spending such a Christmas night in the home of the mother of all Nurses' Organisations. It would be a memory to be carried through life by all the Association's guests that night to many quarters of the globe. Miss Isabel Macdonald's name was associated with this toast, and was most enthusiastically applauded, special reference having been made by the Chairman to her splendid powers in maintaining the Royal British Nurses' Association in the front rank of nurses' organisations.

Just before leaving the dining-room there was a call for the cook, who came up in her neat white uniform, and behind her stood the members of the domestic staff in their purple uniform and dainty muslin aprons and caps. The Chairman thanked the staff for the efficient service which had gone far to make the dinner a success, and especially congratulated the cook on the excellent results of her work that night.

After dinner, everyone adjourned to the drawing-room to enjoy the songs of Miss Dorothy Clarke, accompanied by Miss Josephine Lee. Great appreciation and enjoyment of her lovely voice were expressed, and the Royal British Nurses' Association is to be congratulated upon the attendance of these great musicians on Christmas night.

Coffee and liqueurs were served, and then it was announced that it had fallen to a certain gallant Admiral in the neighbourhood to capture the Loch Ness monster. Being truly chivalrous he had decided that those International guests should be the first to see his "capture" and had sent it round in charge of his ghillie, who carried a rod with the reel and tackle that had lured the monster from the depths of Loch Ness. Thereupon the aforementioned ghillie led in the monster (with an appropriate burden of Christmas crackers) amid roars of laughter. For years it has been a matter of argument whether Miss Swaby Smith really has in her veins "the drop of Scotch blood" to which she lays claim; her antagonists have completely capitulated, we hear, after witnessing her clever impersonation of that ghillie and the courage with which she suffered herself to be carried shoulder high in the midst of that moving multitude that descended to the Christmas tree.

#### Distribution of Souvenirs.

In the Council Chamber Mrs. Bedford Fenwick distributed souvenirs to the International guests. First pretty leather penwipers "to keep pens bright," with a personal note from the President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, and also cartons of sweets with cards of good wishes from the British College of Nurses.

Father Christmas then dismantled the stately tree and distributed gifts.

Thanks with musical honours were then accorded to Mrs. Fenwick, Miss Dorsey, Mrs. Temple, Miss Beatrice Treasure, Miss Dorothy Clarke, Miss Macdonald and Miss Hutton.

Soon came the unwelcome intelligence that a green chariot waited at the door. The company gathered into a circle to sing "Auld Lang Syne," and then standing to attention they sang the National Anthem.

The last memory of Christmas Night, 1934, at 194, Queen's Gate, was of a coach with rows of smiling, friendly faces turned towards a group of hostesses on the doorstep who stood parting the welcome guests, waving their good-byes and singing the old song of good comradeship "For they are jolly good fellows" and "so say all of us."

M. B.

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