

London, are lamenting that the term of office on the visiting staff of Lord Horder, K.C.V.O., who attended their great Matron, Miss Isla Stewart, on her death-bed, has come to an end. At the close of his last clinical lecture, Lord Horder said:—

"Well, I must bid you good-bye. It has all been, in schoolboy phraseology, 'great fun' and I have thoroughly enjoyed it. The clinician's material has not been confined to the patients in their beds. For there have been the clerks themselves . . . and the rest of the 'firm' . . . and the nursing staff . . . and the porters whistling outside the ward, under the echoing shaft of the lift . . . and the buzzer that calls for the anaesthetist who is never there . . . and this lecture theatre. More than all this, there has been the world outside—the domestic circle, the market place, the forum. There has been the whole human comedy as seen by Shakespeare and Moliere and Cervantes and the other great clinical observers. I hope I have not put too many of you, whom I have been privileged to teach, out of your stride. I trust my methods, and my teaching, have conformed in some measure to the great traditions of this place. But they have been largely, and of necessity, myself:—

"Ay, there's the rub."

So now I doff my ward coat and hand it to you, Evans, my friend. Gow and you have been loyal, inspiring, and very charitable colleagues, and I tender you my most sincere thanks. God bless you, and God help you!"

At the Treloar Cripples Hospital and College, Alton, the whole staff, numbering over 200, recently assembled in the College Recreation Hall for the purpose of making a farewell presentation to the retiring Matron, Miss J. F. Robertson, who had held this position since the foundation of the hospital by Sir William Treloar, twenty-eight years ago.

Sir Henry Gauvain, the Medical Superintendent, who presided, and made the presentation, said that the gift he was about to make was supported by many former members of the medical and nursing staffs besides the present hospital staff. He spoke of the twenty-eight happy years during which he had had the privilege of working with Miss Robertson, and said that nurses trained by her were now scattered all over the world. He had met some of them in Australia and Singapore, and he wished those present could hear what they said about her.

Remembering all they owed to Matron, they had thought they would like to show, in some tangible form, their affection and respect for her. He then, presented to Miss Robertson on behalf of the subscribers, a wallet containing a cheque for nearly £100.

Miss Robertson, who was evidently deeply moved, asked Dr. C. E. M. Jones, the Assistant Medical Superintendent, to read the reply which she had prepared, saying how much she appreciated the kind things spoken of her and hoped they were partly true.

We are asked to publish the following message from Miss Robertson so that all past Treloarians may see it.

"I am very much obliged to all past Treloarians for their spontaneous contribution to the cheque which was presented to me on my retirement from 'Active Service.' I also appreciate the numerous letters I have received from all

parts of the world, and hope to acknowledge them later. Meanwhile *Au Revoir*."

The good work begun by Miss Robertson in association with Sir Henry Gauvain will, we feel sure, be maintained by her successor Miss Holborow.

In our last issue we recorded the tragic story of Miss Florence Annie Parkes, in 1917 a certified midwife, who at the Exeter Assizes that year was convicted of the manslaughter of an infant in her nursing home, and was sentenced to, and served, a term of six months' imprisonment for this offence, how that after representations on her behalf made by Mr. A. C. Reed, Unionist M.P. for Exeter, the Home Secretary, Sir John Simon, eighteen years later recommended to the late King that a free pardon should be granted to her, and also stated in the House of Commons that suitable compensation was being given to her.

The document conveying to Miss Parkes the King's Pardon was one of the last signed by King George at Buckingham Palace. "That is something," Miss Parkes told the representative of a contemporary "which will make the memory of King George dear to me to my dying day.

"You can imagine how grateful I was for an act of kindness shown to me the other day in the office of the Lord Great Chamberlain. It was suggested to me that I might like to see the King's Lying-in-State. I was conducted through Westminster Hall, and was thus able to pay my last humble respects to the man whose signature cleared my name.

"My prayers went out for him. He had done this great service for me. I was the most grateful woman to pay homage at that bier." Miss Parkes speaks also of the kindness of other friends who allowed her a seat in St. James's Street so that she could see the passing of King George's funeral.

The Guild of Hospital Librarians, which has now been in existence for nearly two years, with Headquarters at 48, Queen's Gardens, London, W.C.2, is issuing an invitation to the first International Meeting of the Guild, which will be held in Paris during the week-end of Friday, May 8th, to Monday, May 11th, 1936. Not only hospital librarians, but all who are interested, are invited to attend. The subjects to be discussed will include the formation of hospital libraries, their organisation nationally, their relations with the administrative authorities, and the daily problems with which each of them is confronted. Amongst the speakers will be Dr. René Sand; Madame Getting; Mlle. Oddon; Mr. C. E. A. Bedwell, Chairman of the Guild; Mr. A. D. Power, Hon. Treasurer; and Mrs. M. E. Roberts, Hon. Secretary, from whom information may be obtained.

The Guild publishes quarterly an attractive organ, named "The Book Trolley," the cost of which is 2d. a copy, post free. From it we learn that a Study Group for members on the "Scope of Libraries and Librarians" will be held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C., on Tuesday, February 25th, at 4.45 p.m. for 5 p.m., when the discussion on "Nurses' Libraries" will be opened by Miss Helen Dey, R.R.C., Matron of the Hospital; and that on the "Scope of Librarians" by Dr. Mavin Dobbie. The minimum subscription to the Guild is 2s. 6d. per annum.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)