

calling it an important office. It might be thought that the Royal British Nurses' Association was not a very big thing after all, but there was a very great deal of work in it, I can tell you, and I think that now that we can call it a Royal Chartered Association, it is really becoming a big thing. We wanted a man of ability to carry forward this big thing, and that in Dr. Bezly Thorne we have found the right honorary secretary, I think you will all agree with me. (Applause.) We needed presently a lady honorary secretary, one who should state the ladies' side, and we were fortunate in lighting upon a able and intelligent and industrious lady, who, though she has not been very long with us, has shown that she also is the right person in the right place. Many of you, if not all of you, know that I am referring to Miss Grace Gordon. (Applause.) We have a most vigorous staff—two honorary secretaries and a treasurer doing most magnificent work. If we were to apply to them to learn how that work was done, I am afraid they would have to tell us that they very often had to toil in the small hours of the morning. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) At all events, we know that it means, on the part of all of them, infinite painstaking, great perseverance, considerable courage, and the wrestling with many difficulties. (Applause.) If our good friend, Dr. Bedford Fenwick who has had to sustain a good deal of the brunt of the opposition, could be applied to as to the time he has spent upon the work, and the anxious care he has bestowed upon it, I think he would refuse to tell us. I am quite sure it must have been very much, or we should not have been here to-night to rejoice over our Charter. (Applause.) I should like, sir, also to refer to one who was in the post of honorary secretary in the early stages of this Association, and as it would not be right that we should meet to night without referring to her. She did good work in the early days, and her good deeds ought to be remembered at this particular moment. You know that I refer to Miss Wood. I would now ask your permission, sir, to add to the toast a name I have not been bidden to add, but I am quite sure that everyone who knows the qualities that have been exhibited by Miss Daisy Robins—(applause)—in the very short time she has been with us, will at once endorse the propriety of my asking your permission to include her name. (Hear, hear.) Her ability, her energy, her efficiency, her enthusiasm, I think I may say know no bounds. (Applause.) We have lighted upon a most excellent general secretary, and this ought, I think, to be remembered when we are proclaiming our Charter with great joy. I therefore propose to you the toast, which should be drunk with cordial and grateful thanks, of the health, and, may I say, the long endurance, of our Treasurer, of our Honorary Secretaries, and of our General Secretary. (Applause.)

Dr. BEZLY THORNE, in response, said: Sir William Savory, Ladies and Gentlemen, and fellow members of our honourable and Royal Corporation,—I could most earnestly wish that the task of responding to this toast had fallen to better hands, and yet I am bound to admit that there is a certain appropriateness in my having to perform the duty. It is always an embarrassing and difficult task to return thanks for a great meed of well deserved praise, and in that particular respect I am in a position to dissociate myself in a certain degree from the position of my colleagues. Therefore I have greater liberty of speech than would belong to them, because the part that I have borne in the work has been relatively an insignificant one. ("No, no.") But it would be disingenuous of me not to admit at once that there has

been work, very hard work at times, and work involving a great deal of anxiety and responsibility. But, after all, in estimating the credit that should be given to those who do a certain work, we should always take into account the conditions under which it has been performed, and it must be conceded that the conditions under which we have laboured have been conditions of singular advantage and encouragement. In the first place, we have always had before us the example of our great and illustrious president. (Applause.) That alone, had all other motives been wanting, would have been sufficient to stimulate us into active industry. Then, again, we have been buoyed up with the consciousness that we have been contending for a good and great cause—a cause so great that it is destined to become one of national, and almost of universal, beneficence. (Applause.) I venture to say, sir, that when the future historian and philosopher, turning from the deeds of war, and from the strife of political parties, devotes his study to those unique social advances which mark the age that is fast closing upon us, and turns to the page which records advances which have been made in the relief of sickness and suffering, and more especially the great progress that has been made in the Nursing profession, particularly by women—when he does this, I venture to say, he will reckon that he has come to the brightest page of the volume; and I do not mind admitting that it is such considerations as this that have fired us in our work with an enthusiasm, which a sense of duty alone could hardly have conjured up. (Hear, hear.) And now, sir, I beg to return, in no conventional sense, but in the heartiest possible manner, the thanks of Dr. Bedford Fenwick, of Miss Grace Gordon, and of myself, for the very graceful way in which this toast has been proposed, and for the very generous manner in which it has been received, and I can only assure you that we are ready, and proud, to lay our services, such as they are, and for what they are worth, at the feet of those good women who, with cultured mind, and skilful hand, and ever-ready sympathy, are prepared to represent, and do represent, that which is most worthy in the Nursing profession; and if in days to come we are able to assure ourselves that even in the very smallest degree we have contributed to honour their position, and in any other way to advance their interests, we shall feel that we have not laboured in vain. (Applause.)

MR. BRUDENELL CARTER: Ladies and gentlemen, there is no higher piece of practical wisdom than that of keeping good things for the last. (Laughter.) We have this evening laid the tribute of homage at the feet of our sovereign, and at the feet of the illustrious lady our president—(applause)—to whom we are so much indebted. We have drunk to our military and naval brethren, and to the volunteers, without any hint of reference to the old problem of who shot the dog—(laughter)—and we have been favoured by speeches by ladies, speeches which can only adequately be described in the words of Shakespeare—ladies, "Whose words all ears took captive, whose dear perfection hearts that scorn'd to serve, humbly call'd mistress." (Applause and laughter.) And now the wisdom of our Committee has honoured me with the duty of proposing to you the health of our Chairman—(applause)—a fitting climax to the other proceedings of this memorable evening. Ladies and gentlemen, it was no light thing for this Association, when in the very early stages of its history the President of the College of Surgeons, the senior surgeon of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, with that instinctive insight into truth, for which he is so much indebted for his high position, with that power of

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