

any kind. It is your vocation to watch by a sick mother or a dying child; you are dealing then with creatures of reason, of passion, of hope, of fear, of love, not of mere material organisms. I dare say many of you know these verses:—

"In life's long sickness evermore,
Our thoughts are tossing to and fro,
We change our posture o'er and o'er,
But cannot rest nor cheat our woe.

The world's a room of sickness where each heart,
Knows its own anguish and unrest,
Draws wisdom from and enobles art,
Is his who skilled of effort best
Whom by the softest step and gentlest tone
Ineffable spirits own.

And love to rest the languid eye,
When like an angel's wing they feel them fleeting
by."

I need hardly ask to be forgiven for thus connecting your daily duties in the sick room with this thought of the immeasurable universe, which are all parts of one great whole in which our work is well or ill done, in which we sadden or soothe the lives of those with whom we live. And to you I need not say that those higher regions of science, which are explained by the work and the lives of men such as Virchow or Lister, are not the exact sphere in which your days are spent, but yet if by obedience, intelligence, gentleness and care, you aid these rare men in the exercise of their great powers and gifts, you feel you are doing your appointed task with the certainty of the full reward, of peace in yourselves, and of good in your degree to all. I must thank your Royal Highness for the honour conferred upon me by desiring me to join you in this meeting, and I must express my great regret that I am not recovered from the third attack of influenza I have had in two years, and no other consideration than that of waiting upon Your Royal Highness would have induced me to attend or address a gathering of this kind. But it is perfectly clear that Your Royal Highness and this Association are carrying on a great task when you are laying down the rules and education under which, with entirely unprecedented circumstances and conditions, the women of England of every station, of every class, of every culture, are joining in endeavouring to diminish the sufferings and sorrows of their fellow creatures, and this is the great Christian work which, in the highest cultured times of ancient history never existed, and has now become a part of our ordinary social existence. (Applause.)

DR. BEZLY THORNE: May it please Your Royal Highness, ladies and gentlemen,—At this hour my words shall be very few, but there is a duty to perform which is as agreeable as it is important. Ever since this Association sprang into existence its annual meetings have been marked by signal success, and in the matter of the Chairman it has enjoyed an unbroken sequence of good fortune. In the present instance it is more than fortunate. It is most appropriate when we are met together for the first time, graced by the presence of our President, and to congratulate each other upon the grant of the Royal Charter, that we should be presided over by a Chairman who is as full of honours as he is of years. (Applause.) It might be said of Sir Henry Acland that upon him his Sovereign and his University have vied with each other to pour such distinctions as are outward tokens of that worth which is intrinsic in him. I have the pleasure to propose, "That the Royal British Nurses' Association

offers its best thanks to Sir Henry Acland for his kindness in presiding over the annual meeting, and desires to express its high appreciation of the value of his services."

MISS MACKAY seconded the proposition, which was cordially adopted, and the meeting terminated.

THE LUNCHEON.

The luncheon was held immediately after the meeting in the hall of Magdalen College, which was beautifully adorned with flowers and hot-house plants. Her Royal Highness Princess Christian was present. At the conclusion of the luncheon—

THE PRESIDENT OF MAGDALEN said: Your Royal Highness, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, ladies and gentlemen,—I have to propose one toast which we shall drink with very special emphasis, feeling that it will have a personal and direct character, and a more obvious reality—for reality it always has—a more obvious reality than usual from the presence in our midst of Your Royal Highness. But before I proceed to that duty with our Royal Highness's permission I have two duties to perform. May I be allowed to make an announcement of some arrangements which we have ventured to make, and which we hope will conduce to your pleasure and convenience. I fancy some of them have been already announced even so they will admit of announcing again. May I say that we have arranged that after this luncheon, any who wish to do so, shall be shown over this college and its grounds by one of the senior Fellows, Mr. Garnsey, who will be waiting to escort you. After that there will be a short organ recital in the College Chapel by the College Organist, of which you have the programme. That will be at four o'clock, and will last about half-an-hour, and after that you are invited by Sir Henry and Miss Acland, if you will repair to their house in Broad Street, near Balliol College, to take tea with them there. Then Sir Henry Acland will, I believe, kindly arrange that those who are inclined, shall, with him, visit the museum, and arrangements have also been made, if any of you wish, either in addition to that or otherwise, that you shall be shown the grounds and buildings of New College and Christ Church. Beyond that I have only to say that all the colleges are open, and I am sure will extend every welcome and be most most glad that you shall visit them. And now may I come to my duty and propose this toast, only saying in preface that I should like to offer on behalf of the College their warmest welcome to Your Royal Highness and the Royal British Nurses' Association. We are proud that we may be allowed to remember the connection of Your Royal Highness with this College. We do not forget, and even when we are gone, the long memory of the College will not forget, perhaps, it may be hundreds of years hence, the fact that Your Royal Highness's eldest son, Prince Christian Victor, a grandson of Her Majesty, was here moving amongst us a simple undergraduate, and without saying more, I will say that we do not forget the way in which he went in and out amongst us, a simple, sincere, friendly, unaffected specimen and example of that type of healthy taste and character and law-abiding sense of duty which we associate—I hope we may fairly associate—with a great English Public School and an English College. And now I come to my toast, and there are many topics which I might enlarge upon which would commend it if it needed commending, but it does not need any commendation. I shall not attempt to enlarge upon them, and will only say that the great sorrow and the great rejoicing of the last year or two have brought home to us peculiarly that feeling of

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