

THE NURSES' BAZAAR.

The Grand Bazaar held for the benefit of the Royal British Nurses' Association has come and gone, and will long remain a pleasant memory to those Members who helped, or who visited the Grafton Galleries on the 6th, 7th, and 8th insts.

Her Royal Highness the President graciously opened the Bazaar every day, and remained for the afternoon and evening, working in the most indefatigable manner, and thereby assuring the success of the enterprise.

The *tout ensemble* was most picturesque, the ten stalls being grouped round the great Gallery, draped in most artistic shades of red, white, and blue by Messrs. Goodyer, of Bond Street. The President's Stall was arranged in the alcove at the East end, and she was most ably assisted by Lady Jeune and the Misses Stanley, the Baroness von und zu Egloffstein, Lady Duckworth, and others. To the right and left were the flower and dairy stalls, presided over by Mrs. Burchier and Miss de Pledge, the Children's, Infirmarys, Special, and General Hospitals Stalls, and at the West end, the centre of attraction was the large golden shoe overflowing with dollies, the Private Nurses' and Middlesex Stalls, each Stall vieing with the other as to which should be the most beautiful.

The opening of the Bazaar each day was a pretty sight, a line of Matrons and Nurses stretching from the vestibule to the dais, through which the President passed, graciously acknowledging her enthusiastic reception. On Thursday she was met at the door by Mrs. Spencer, the Hon. Nurse Secretary, and Miss Beachcroft, Matron of the Lincoln Hospital, who presented her and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein with baskets of flowers; a fanfare of trumpeters of the Royal Horse Artillery and the strains of the National Anthem announcing their arrival. Sir James Crichton Brown delivered the following address on Thursday:—

"Your Royal Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—Mr. Ruskin has said in effect, in one of the numbers of *For's Clavigera*, that instead of the pure and ductile gold of the ancient womanhood, we have now the sounding brass and the tinkling saucepan of the new woman. And I quote these words in order to assure you that we are met here this afternoon to promote the interests, not of the new woman, but of the true woman; for woman is never more truly womanly than when engaged in soothing the suffering and in ministering to the afflicted; and the ductile gold is never more beautifully revealed than in the hours of sickness and in the shadow of death. Among all the races of mankind, and in every period of human history, it has been part of a woman's mission to tend and care for those who by illness or accident have been reduced to a state of helplessness like that of the infant in its cradle. But hitherto this mission has been more an affair of the heart than of the head. Splendid zeal has at all times been displayed in it; but that zeal has often been without knowledge, and so has failed to attain the best possible results. Until a time within our own memory, the Nursing of the sick was a branch of domestic economy, taken up by everybody in general and nobody in particular, as the season or occupation demanded, like the preserving of fruit or the darning of stockings; conducted at hap-hazard, or by rule of thumb, or by the light of hints let fall by the doctor or any old woman in the neighbourhood. Only of late years has the Nursing of the sick been elevated into a science and an art, requiring, like other sciences and arts, special qualities to start with, special study, special preparation, and special discipline. No doubt enormous strides have been made in improving the science and art of Nursing, and the education of those who learn the science and practise the art; but much still remains to be done to

make the profession of Nursing fully useful to the public, and to ensure the complete fidelity of the Nursing profession to itself. It was the realisation of this truth by Her Royal Highness and others which led to the establishment of the Association under the auspices of which we are assembled to-day. Her Royal Highness saw that there was excellent and abundant Nursing power in the country; she saw that the British public had no ready means of discriminating between good and bad Nursing—between the genuine and the spurious article; she saw that the system of education of Nurses was unsatisfactory—every Institution and every Hospital being a law unto itself, and giving a good or indifferent education just as it pleased; and she saw that Nurses were without a proper bond of professional union, that they had no ready means of communication, no rallying point where they could discuss questions affecting their interest, no corporate existence by which to make their influence felt. Hence it was that seven years ago Her Royal Highness resolved to establish the British Nurses' Association, which since then, under her generous and indefatigable guidance, has become first the Royal British Nurses' Association, and the Royal British Nurses' Association incorporated by Royal Charter; an Association which has undertaken to keep open a public register giving names of Nurses who by reason of their training and character are qualified for the profession; and which has undertaken to purify that list from time to time of the names of those whose conduct had not proved satisfactory; thus maintaining the dignity and efficiency of the profession; an Association which will exercise a salutary influence on the education of Nurses, which will safeguard their interests and promote their welfare in many ways, and raise the standard of the profession as a whole. I can, perhaps, best describe to you the action of Her Royal Highness in this matter, when I tell you that she found, when she began, large numbers of solitary Nurses, and of little bands of Nurses scattered over the country, carrying on more or less successfully a guerilla warfare against disease, and she has mobilised those forces, and has put into their hands arms of precision which must enormously increase their power of combating the hordes of the enemies of mankind—the epidemics, the degenerative and other maladies that invade and desolate our land. I am sure, ladies and gentlemen, you will help Her Royal Highness in her noble efforts. Her labours, her assiduous labours, have been crowned with, so far, a larger measure of success than could have been anticipated, and the Association grows day by day. Of course, like all young and successful Associations, it has encountered opposition—strenuous and prolonged opposition—about which I will not say more, because it has been overcome; and because it will, I trust, be converted shortly into cordial and loyal support. But, about that opposition, I must just say this, that it has involved the Association in great expense. But for it the Association would have been in a financially independent position to-day. As it is, the Association is in need of funds to carry out the objects which have been named to you, and which you have, I am sure, pronounced laudable. We look to you to supply us with these funds. We confidently hope that you will furnish us with white wings in the shape of five pound notes, and golden wheels in the shape of sovereigns, to carry us on to that goal of well-established prosperity which we desire, and which we feel we deserve. I beg to request Her Royal Highness to declare this Bazaar open."

Princess Christian then declared the Bazaar opened, and, seating herself in the centre of her stall, proved herself a most successful saleswoman of her dainty wares. Among them were photos of the Queen, the Duke and Duchess of York and Prince Edward, sent by the Queen.

Varied musical and dramatic entertainments were given each day—the Blue Zouave Orchestra, consisting of 22 ladies, and conducted by Mdlle. Marie Wolaska, discoursing sweet music in the octagon room, much to the delight of every one present.

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