

am sure you will all agree with me that I choose well and wisely when I couple with it the name of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. (Loud applause.) Fortunately, I can well spare her the pain of dilating at any length in her presence upon what she has done for this Association, for the history of the Association is really the record of her work. (Applause.) Every page of it bears the impress of her spirit, her energy, her ability, and her wisdom. (Applause.) I ask you, then, as I have no doubt you will, to drink most heartily to this toast of 'Success to the Association,' and to offer to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick our congratulations upon her success. (Applause.)"

A little later, in proposing the health of the "Officers of the Association," Sir Charles Gage-Brown is reported as follows:—"When I mention the name of Dr. Bedford Fenwick—(applause)—I think you will agree with me that were I to associate with his name that of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who is not an honorary officer, I should have named the founders of this Association; and it wanted spirit and strength to found such an organization as this. (Applause.) It wanted people in their prime with all the energy which belongs to that phase of life to start a thing like this. I can tell you, because I have seen a great deal of the working of it, and I feel, therefore, that the conspicuous ability of Dr. Bedford Fenwick, in all matters of detail and organization, has been the great secret of our success. (Applause.) If we had not had such a man, we must have been at the tail, whereas I think we may now say that we are at the front. (Laughter, and hear, hear). His untiring energy in this cause, his persistence in everything that has had to be carried out, his ability in adopting every measure that was necessary for the success of this Association, his readiness to do everything that was wanted to push it forward, must be regarded as the means by which the result which we celebrate to-day has been accomplished, and it must be a proud day for both Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick that we are here to celebrate the gaining of a Charter at this early stage of our existence—a Charter which I expect, nay, which I feel sure, will be a very great advantage to the nursing world. (Applause.)"

It must be noted that these statements were made to, and were applauded by, a most distinguished and representative gathering of the leaders of the medical and nursing profession. It is equally conclusive for our purpose to quote from the eloquent speech

made by Sir Richard Webster, Her Majesty's present Attorney-General, when representing the opposition to the Royal Charter, before the Privy Council. Acting, of course, upon his instructions, he said, with reference to "the evidence of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick—a lady who has done more to promote the objects of this Association than anybody—a lady of immense ability, energy, and powers of organization." Then again, Sir Richard Webster, after quoting Mrs. Fenwick's opinions for nearly an hour, said "Mrs. Fenwick has been the main promoter of this application—she has done more to work up this agitation than anybody else, and I am justified in pointing out to your Lordships her view at this time." At last, in consequence of the continual references to this lady's views and opinions, Sir Horace (now Lord Justice) Davey, the leading counsel for the Association, rose and said—"I do not appear for Mrs. Bedford Fenwick," to which Sir Richard Webster replied—"Well, although you do not appear for Mrs. Fenwick, it would be scarcely graceful to disclaim the part that she has taken in promoting this application."

We trust we have quoted sufficient of the opinions held and expressed both by leading supporters, and the leading opponents of the Association in 1892-3 to disprove the assertions at present made by Sir James Crichton Browne, Dr. Bezly Thorne, and others to the effect that but little work was done for the Association by those who founded it. With infinitely greater pleasure, we pass on to express our own opinion, based upon accurate and extensive knowledge, that the work accomplished for the Association in its early days, by Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Sister Cecilia, Matron of the University College Hospital, Miss Victoria Jones, Matron of Guy's Hospital, Miss Wood, both as an honorary and a paid officer of the Association, Miss Beachcroft, Matron of the Lincoln County Hospital, Miss Rogers, Matron of the Leicester Infirmary, Miss Cureton, Matron of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and many other Matrons of leading Hospitals in the Provinces was beyond all praise. Many of them devoted all their spare time and energy to the work and welfare of the Association, and it was their interest and exertions which—probably more than any other factor—induced nurses to join the Association and enabled it to carry out the many schemes which it successfully undertook, in the first six years of its existence.

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