

Gifts of flowers were also presented from the Wilhelmina Hospital and the Inner Hospital at Amsterdam, and a flowerpiece from the *Maandblad von Tiekerverpleging*, a Dutch nursing journal.

An Amsterdam lady presented the departing Sisters with a basket filled with exquisite fruit. Dr. Coertz addressed the Sisters in the name of the Head Committee of the Red Cross, in one of the saloons of the "König." Dr. Van Geuns made a speech as the deputy of the Medical Circle, and Mr. Van Rooyen, representing the *Medicinæ Studiosorum Societas*, also spoke a warm word of sympathy to the nurses and their Matron. Dr. Lingbeek, the leader of the expedition, moved a vote of thanks. When the hour of departure came, Miss Beynen and the Sisters were standing on the deck of the steamer, holding flowers in their hands and beckoning their farewell to the assembled crowd on the quay. The band of the "König" played the Transvaal and the Dutch national songs. When the steamer began to move, the strains of the stately Lutheran hymn, *Ein fester Burg ist unser Gott*, broke forth, followed by our old, beloved and beautiful "Wilhelmus Van Nassouwe."

The large, grey steamer glided slowly forward, followed by many an eye moist with tears when looking at the nurses, simply dressed in black, whose task in the far away South Africa is as noble as it is difficult. The Commander of the "König" and his officers, standing on the bridge, were waving their farewell greetings.

The "König" was accompanied as far as Ymuiden, the outerharbour of Amsterdam, by a pleasure-boat, in honour of the ambulance.

At Ymuiden the enthusiasm of the population was not less great than everywhere else in our country, and it manifested itself in many ways.

The Queen-Mother has sent the following telegram to Miss Beynen and her nursing staff:—

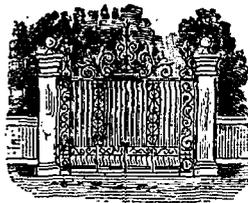
"My best and sincere wishes are with you and the other nurses at your going out to South Africa. With great interest and sympathy I shall follow the performances of the ambulance of the Red Cross, and of all who have their share in the noble and sacrificing, but heavy task, that is to be fulfilled. May God bless you all and your work and grant you a happy return in your country.—Emma."

Amongst those who accompanied the "König" out to Ymuiden on board this steamer, were Dr. and Mrs. Leyds and Prof. Korteweg. The latter and the other medical men going with the expedition will join the ambulance at Naples, on the 8th of November. Dr. Lingbeek, the leader, has departed with the ambulance from Amsterdam.

HOLLANDIA.

## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



THE Annual Business Meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland was held at the Cavendish Rooms, Mortimer Street, W., on Friday, October 27th. The President, Mrs. Alfred Booth, who was warmly greeted, on her re-appearance in public

after her recent illness, took the chair, and gave her Presidential Address, in the course of which she spoke of the difficulties which were apt to occur from religious differences, and said that though prejudice and isolation still exist, yet she hoped the intercourse between women of different views in the Union was gradually overcoming them. The way to effect this was not to tear down walls but to climb over them. She concluded by quoting some remarks of Mrs. Humphry Ward, who said that the passion for the morally better was the source of the world's good. Differences were often magnified, but every matter had two handles one which would bear taking hold of the other not. She begged all to surround those who differed from them with kindly thoughts, remembering that thoughts are really things, and that as we think so our lives will be. The Hon. Treasurer then presented her report. The total received during the year was £867 9s. 10d., and at the present time she reported a deficit of £18. It is a lamentable illustration of the small support given to women's work, that this great national association should receive so small an income and be so hampered for want of funds. The adoption of the report was moved by Mrs. Creighton and seconded by Lady Battersea. The reports of the various Sub-Committees were then presented, after which Mrs. Creighton one of the representatives of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland at the business meetings of the International Council in June, reported upon its work.

Resolutions of which due notice had been given, were then considered and adopted in the following forms.

"That in future there be twenty-four Vice-Presidents of whom three must be ladies resident in Scotland, and three ladies resident in Ireland." Moved by the Executive, seconded by Mrs. Creighton.

That, under the National Council clause, the last sentence be deleted, and the clause shall run, in future:—

"No one shall be qualified to serve on the National Council who does not subscribe at least five shillings annually to the funds of the Union, such subscription to be paid either by herself or by the Society she represents, as they shall decide."

Moved by Mrs. Creighton and seconded by Miss Kinnaird.

Some verbal alterations in the constitution were then proposed by Lady Laura Ridding, most of which were seconded and adopted.

The following resolution was then proposed by Mrs. Hoster, seconded by Miss Childers and carried: "That some efficient method of co-operation with the National Union of Typists be recommended to the Executive Committee."

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