

Surgeons of Ireland, then addressed the gathering, and said that all medical men must necessarily take a deep interest in everything that affected the welfare of the nursing profession. It was a matter of pride and gratification to them to see the enormous progress which the nursing profession had made within the last few years. He was old enough to look back to the days of the immortal Sarah Gamp, and he remembered very well the efforts that were made for the eviction of that venerable lady. (Laughter and applause.) That required very considerable energy and persistence, and those who were responsible for her eviction were worthy of lasting credit, and foremost amongst those who worked with such vigour and energy to bring this about he might mention Miss Huxley, the President of the club. (Applause.) It was due to her in a higher degree, perhaps, than anybody else in the nursing profession in Dublin, that the present condition of nursing in Ireland had been brought about. (Applause.) She had introduced methodical system, regular training and habits of discipline, educated and trained intelligence into the wards of the hospitals, and her pupils now held very high and honourable positions in the nursing profession. (Hear, hear.) Of the strides that the nursing profession had made within the last few years, they had most ample testimony in the work which had been done by one of Miss Huxley's most distinguished pupils, Miss MacDonnell, recently in the South African War. It was no exaggeration to say—and it did not in the least diminish the credit which Sir William Thomson and his colleagues had so justly earned in South Africa—that the ordinary work would have been impossible but for the energy, capacity, and efficiency of Miss MacDonnell, Miss Walker, and their fellow-workers. (Hear, hear.) They would not for a moment withhold the due share of honour from Miss MacDonnell and those associated with her, and he was quite sure that Miss MacDonnell only acted as typical of the Dublin nurses, and he trusted that the nurses trained in the schools of the Dublin hospitals would always bear her work in memory, and endeavour as far as possible to emulate her example. He was sure the reasons which caused them to adopt the nursing profession were very varied, but the great majority, perhaps, adopted it for the same reason that men adopted the medical profession—to earn an honest livelihood.

He then proceeded to enumerate the most fundamental qualities to be attained by a nurse in the course of her training as follows:—Precision, obedience, accurate observation, self-denial, unselfishness and devotion to duty. Few young men were, he said, capable of appreciating

the capacity for unselfish devotion possessed by women, but the older ones had had some experience of it. As an illustration he mentioned the way in which nurses carried their lives in their hands during the terrible epidemic of typhus fever that occurred in the islands on the west of Ireland, as fearlessly as soldiers did on Spion Kop.

This club had been formed for the purpose primarily of being of use and benefit to the nursing profession in Dublin. The largeness and enthusiasm of that meeting was sufficient evidence for the necessity of the club, and a most hopeful augury for its future. Such a club was necessary for many reasons. In the first place, many of the pupils trained in the Dublin hospitals had no place outside the hospital for a moment's recreation, and it was difficult for them under such circumstances to lead a happy life. It was the aim of all those connected with the hospitals to make the lives of the nurses as happy as possible, and while they were undergoing their training they had a home in the club. He hoped they would not rest content merely with the occupation of rooms, but that Miss Huxley and the ladies associated with her, would aspire to have a club house of their own, and that in that house they would have accommodation for nurses who might be temporarily detained in Dublin. Every medical man in Dublin wished the club success most heartily. He hoped they would prosper in their efforts, and that the club would be a source of pleasure, gratification, and benefit to the nursing profession.

Miss Brady proposed, and Miss Fitzpatrick seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Myles for his address. The meeting then resolved itself into a social gathering, and over the tea-cups members made or renewed pleasant friendships the occasion being enlivened by strains of inspiriting music. Much admiration was expressed of the daintily and cosily furnished club-rooms, many congratulations being offered to the President and members on their enterprise in forming the club.

Now that it has been so happily and successfully launched, we hope it has a long and prosperous career before it. To ensure this, not only the hard work of a few, but the co-operation of every member, will be required if the club is to develop on healthy lines, and to grasp all its possibilities. We take this opportunity of expressing our cordial good wishes.

The time has gone by when nurses can stand aloof from one another, and social intercourse between the members of the nursing staffs of different hospitals is an unmixed good. We hope other cities will follow the lead given by the Dublin nurses.

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