

The Royal Red Cross.

His Majesty the King held an Investiture at St. James's Palace on Tuesday, and conferred the Order of the Royal Red Cross upon the under-mentioned ladies:—

Lady Chesham, for services with the Imperial Yeomanry Hospital.

Lady Sarah Wilson, for services at Mafeking.

The Hon. Mrs. Agnes Mary Goldmann.

Nursing Sister Miss Edith McCall Anderson, Army Nursing Service Reserve.

Miss Mary C. Fisher, for services at Imperial Yeomanry Hospital.

Mrs. Gunning, for services in Natal.

Nursing Sister Amy Knaggs, Army Nursing Service Reserve.

Nursing Sister Mrs. Eugenie Ludlow, for services at Ladysmith.

Miss Annie Maude MacDonnell.

Nursing Sister Edith Pretty, Portland National Hospital.

Nursing Sister Miss Jane E. Skillman, Army Nursing Service Reserve.

Nursing Sister Miss Annie Blanche Trew, Army Nursing Service Reserve.

Nursing Sister J. W. M. Williamson, New Zealand Nursing Service.

Trained Nurses' Day.

A PLEA FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF TRAINED NURSES.*

By MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

President of the International Council of Nurses.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am deeply sensible of the honour of addressing this great assembly in the interests of Nursing. Trained nurses and the public are so closely united by the ties of friendship and mutual obligation that this seems an opportune moment to consider how best they can discharge the duties they owe to each other.

I trust you will not misunderstand me when I say that the public generally are not acquainted with the vital needs of trained nurses, and have not fully realised the very rapid process of evolution which nursing is passing through in order to keep pace with the demands made upon it by scientific medicine and surgery. Let me prove my point by reference to Florence Nightingale. I doubt very much if the large majority of persons who honour her name realise the significance of her unique work, which is the heritage of humanity. The world is apt to associate her name primarily with army nurs-

ing reform, but it is not the Red Cross which will symbolise her life's work, and immortalise her name, when she goes hence, but the fact that she laid down the laws and principles of nursing on a scientific basis, and it is because she realised and enforced the truth that nursing is not only a technical handicraft, but a scientific profession, that the nurses of all nations owe her an inestimable debt.

The modern nurse, so fit and trim, is now indispensable in every sick room. She is known to, and honoured by, all. Nurses have qualified themselves for the duties demanded from them—their expert knowledge, their skill, and resourcefulness have only been acquired by years of practical work in the hospital wards, and by many hours of theoretical study. This severe training successfully passed through, they are ready and willing to pour out a treasure of skilled and tender care for the benefit of the sick and suffering amongst rich and poor, and their only demand is, that the educational curriculum—be it never so severe—shall fit them to perform their duties in the most thorough, and in the most acceptable, manner.

With a few notable exceptions, modern training schools do not provide a complete system of nursing education, and I doubt if it is possible for them to do so.

It may be urged that the old order has passed and a new era dawned—that we have now good training schools connected with our great hospitals, where the best clinical material is at hand, that to these hospitals are attached well regulated Nurses' Homes, under the direction of trained Superintendents, provided with every comfort and even luxury; that theoretical teaching is organized, and practical details systematically taught; that hours on and off duty have been carefully regulated. All this being admitted, the question may be asked—What more is required?

I own gratefully that much has been accomplished, and, notably in the United States, but I would also urge that much remains to be done. Few who have studied the question will be prepared to admit that the nursing education afforded by the majority of our training schools, is the best which it is possible to give, and until this is unanimously conceded, Nurses must earnestly plead for increased facilities for acquiring knowledge in order to qualify themselves for their onerous vocation in the best possible manner.

Moreover, when our training schools have thoroughly systematised their teaching, there will still remain functions in relation to the education, discipline, and status of the trained nurse, which will not come within their jurisdiction. Science and hospital economics are

* Presented on Trained Nurses' Day in the Temple of Music Buffalo Exposition, September 21st, 1901.

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