

Royalty and the Irish Hospitals.

THE NURSES' GREETING.

When it became known that their Majesties the King and Queen were to visit Ireland, up bubbled the warm loyalty of Irish hearts, and a movement was at once set on foot in Dublin to present an address from the Matrons and nurses. The desire to welcome the King and Queen was most unanimous, and eight hundred nurses who were willing to subscribe for the purpose made the amount each contributed quite a trifling sum.

Of course, Mrs. Kildare Treacy, Lady Superintendent of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution, Upper Baggot Street, was as usual ready to give a helping hand in so good a cause, and the Matrons met at the Institution—Mrs. Treacy presiding—to decide upon the wording of the address, and to select the design; and a hearty address it was, the illuminating of which was most tasteful, as was also the lovely case in which it was enclosed.

Mrs. Kildare Treacy and Miss MacDonnell were selected by their colleagues to personally attend at Dublin Castle and act as the deputation to present the address to the King and Queen in St. Patrick's Hall on July 22nd. The work of the former lady is well known in Dublin and in the world of nursing, and the active part she took in selecting nurses for their patriotic work in the South African War brought her into touch with many professional interests outside the Emerald Isle.

Miss Annie M. MacDonnell, Lady Superintendent of the Richmond Hospital, accompanied Lord Iveagh's Irish hospital to South Africa in 1900, where she worked for six months, and she is now the proud possessor of the Royal Red Cross and South African War Medal.

THE ADDRESS.

"To Their Most Excellent Majesties King Edward the VII. and Queen Alexandra.

"May it please Your Majesties,—We, the Matrons and Nurses of Dublin, desire to offer a respectful greeting to our Gracious King and Queen.

"We are deeply sensible of the great consideration which Your Majesties have always manifested for the welfare of Nurses, and we are fully conscious of the beneficial impetus given to our work by the continued and munificent interest of Your Majesties.

"We also desire to express our heartfelt gratitude to Queen Alexandra in that Your Majesty has been graciously pleased to take the place of our late beloved and revered Queen in all that concerns Nurses, and especially in those who undertake the care of the sick poor throughout the Empire.

"We tender to Your Majesties, whom we rejoice to see, our warm gratitude, and we are, Your Majesties'

"Faithful and Dutiful Subjects."

Then followed the Matrons' signatures on behalf of 800 Nurses.

Those who were happily selected to present personally the numerous addresses to the King and Queen will not soon forget the entrancing scene which met their gaze in the Castle.

The whole of the Lower Castle Yard was covered in, and corridors and chambers were exquisitely draped and festooned in shades of palest green and pink caught up with golden marguerites, the whole effect enhanced by a wealth of flowering plants and palms. The delight of those who awaited the summons to the Throne Room amidst this magic scene may be imagined, also the thrill of nervous excitement which that summons occasioned.

The deputations filed off two and two through the State Apartments, in which were a lavish profusion of loveliest flowers; and while the procession waited in the Long Gallery they witnessed the arrival of the King and Queen, preceded by the Guards—a truly brilliant sight.

The Throne was moved to the side of St. Patrick's Hall to avoid delay, and, standing close to the edge of the dais, the King and Queen, surrounded by a brilliant official staff, extended a most gracious reception to those who passed before them. The King looked well, and every inch a King, and the Queen Consort a vision of loveliness—and in loveliness is included grace, sweetness, charm inexpressible, that true loveliness which has its well-spring in kindness of heart. To the assembled deputations the King read his reply clearly and majestically; every tone and syllable was heard through the great Hall; then their Majesties passed out, bowing repeatedly to those assembled, and leaving behind a lasting impression of stateliness and duty finely performed—good to store in the recesses of memory.

THE QUEEN IN DUBLIN HOSPITALS.

On Friday, July 24th, whilst the King was busy inspecting the homes of the poor, Queen Alexandra paid visits to the Hospice for the Dying at Harolds Cross, and to the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Donnybrook. At both institutions great preparations had been made for her reception. They were in gala attire—flowers, flowers everywhere, and everywhere bright and happy faces, in spite of physical suffering.

At the Hospice, Her Majesty proceeded to inspect the wards, conducted by the Countess of Dudley, the Archbishop, and the Reverend Mother. It was all very pathetic, the welcome of the poor stricken people, the flower gifts to each from the gentle Queen. The most noticeable incident in the visit to St. Patrick's ward for men was the interest taken by the Queen in two soldiers, late in the Durham Light Infantry, and the Royal Fusiliers, both slowly dying of incurable disease. Before leaving, Her Majesty signed the visitors' book "Alexandra," followed by the date.

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