

of the women who has done most to raise the nursing of the sick into a profession is the guest of honour at this banquet, and we are therefore here to-night to place on a pedestal Miss Isla Stewart, who has done so much to afford to women a means of independence through their work as nurses.

"It gives me great pleasure to greet so many of the English nurses, who have given an example to the world. We shall imitate it. France has deep in her mind the development of the profession of nursing, and in following out our ideals we shall get over little differences of personal feeling and overcome our difficulties, so that every nurse may be of the same party as regards her profession, whatever her personal feelings may be on other matters. Allow me to add to the congratulations of our dear Chairman of this evening those of the *Assistance Publique*, to greet the woman who has contributed so largely to the success of the nursing profession—to greet Miss Isla Stewart."

Dr. Champneys, Obstetric Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, who also responded to the toast, said: "At this late hour I promise not to keep you many minutes, but I should like to express the grateful thanks of the guests for the magnificent hospitality we have received, and for the extremely pleasant society in which we have found ourselves, and to avail myself of this opportunity of testifying to the value of the great profession of nursing. Outside this room there may be nurses who, from time to time, think the doctor superfluous, but I am certain that there is not a member of the medical profession who thinks that nurses are superfluous." Dr. Champneys spoke of the importance of the influence of Matrons, and of the high standard which had always been set by Miss Stewart. A fine nurse was, he said, the best woman it was possible to imagine.

THE ENTENTE.

A beautiful bouquet of English roses, tied with the English colours, was then presented to Mme. Alphen Salvador by Mr. C. B. Fenwick on behalf of the International Council of Nurses. Mr. Fenwick, who spoke in the beautiful language of France, warmly congratulated Mme. Salvador on her work for the advancement of nursing.

Mme. Salvador, in expressing her cordial thanks for the flowers, said: "I feel very glad of the opportunity given to me by this festive evening to express my warm admiration for, and sympathy with, the heroine of this night, the valiant woman who, during nearly thirty years, has worked with such energy, intelligence, and authority for the improvement of nursing methods, and whose vigilant and sagacious tuition has turned many timid probationers into perfect nurses. Not only am I to-night the interpreter of the sentiments of the *assistantes* of the Rue Amyot, but our *Conseil National des Femmes* bade me convey their warm greetings and congratulations for the successful work of Miss Isla Stewart—a woman most representative of woman's effort.

"It is a further pleasure to me to meet again the earnest and active women with whom last year we did good work in the Paris Conference, with whom we keep the remembrance of that cordial and uplifting week."

She concluded by expressing cordial good wishes for the prosperity of

"Les Nurses Anglaises, et l'Entente Cordiale de tous les nurses de tous les pays, et de l'Assistance Publique de France."

THE CHAIRMAN.

The last toast was that of "The Chairman," proposed in most kind terms by Mr. Walter Spencer, who spoke of the high standard of nursing which Mrs. Fenwick established and maintained as Matron of St. Bartholomew's, and of her work of later years in raising the level of nursing generally. He showed the beneficial effects of the Medical Acts, and looked forward to the harvest of Mrs. Fenwick's work when the nursing profession was consolidated under a similar Act.

All present then joined in singing "Auld Lang Syne." So ended a most enjoyable evening, which will long live in the memories of all who took part in it as a remarkable tribute of respect and affection to a remarkable woman.

M. B.

The Second Reading of our Registration Bill.

The Bill of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses "to regulate the qualifications of Trained Nurses and to provide for their Registration," presented to the House of Lords by the Lord Ampthill, G.C.S.I., is down for a second reading on Monday, July 6th. We hope that all the supporters of the registration movement will realise what a momentous date this is, and that they will make every effort to bring their just claims, as embodied in the Bill, to the immediate notice of the members of the House of Lords.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee held at 431, Oxford Street, on June 25th, sixty-five new members were elected. Their names will appear in the report of the meeting next week.

The Poor Law Union Association and Registration.

Miss Helen Todd, Matron of the Wandsworth Infirmary, draws attention, in a letter on page 18, to the decision of the Poor Law Union Association to oppose the State Registration of Nurses, and points out that those most concerned in the matter, the Matrons of the infirmaries recognised as training schools by the Local Government Board, have never been consulted.

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