

The Banquet.

Of the many charming reunions in which the visitors to the Congress took part, the Banquet held at the Gaiety Restaurant on the evening of Wednesday, July 21st, stands out as the most brilliant and inspiring. The guests were received in the Georgian suite of rooms by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, with the help of Miss Mollett and others, and included all the Presidents and Official Delegates of the affiliated National Councils together with 300 guests.

Lord Ampthill, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., presided, and honoured the members of the International Council of Nurses by wearing his magnificent orders. Upon his arrival the Presidents and distinguished guests were presented by Mrs. Fenwick, and as he passed to the banquetting hall, conducting Sister Agnes Karll—the newly-elected President, simply dressed in black, her sweet face flushed with pleasure—one realised that the service of the sick enlists in its ranks the great of heart of every rank and race, irrespective of sex.

Lord Ampthill was supported on right and left by Sister Agnes Karll and Mrs. Fenwick, M. André Mesureur, France; Countess A. de Villegas, Belgium; Dr. Lande, Bordeaux; Baroness Mannerheim, Finland; Dr. van Swieten, Belgium; Miss Goodrich, U.S.A.; M. Enjolras, Paris; Miss Snively, Canada; Dr. Bedford Fenwick, Mrs. Henny Tscherning, Denmark; Dr. Boulanger, Belgium; Mrs. Hampton Robb, Dr. Kerr, Miss Tilanus, Holland; Mr. Walter Spencer, Miss Tamm, Sweden; Mr. D'Arcy Power, Dr. Anna Hamilton, Miss Isla Stewart, Dr. Robert Jones, Madame Alphen Salvador, France; Miss Hibbard, Cuba; Mrs. Walter Spencer, Miss Mollett, Miss Huxley, and Mrs. Kildare Treacy.

The 300 guests included many of the leading Matrons and others who have helped to build up in this country and abroad the great International Federation of Trained Nurses; and the forceful delegation of 45 German nurses supported with joy the proud position attained by their beloved leader, Agnes Karll.

Many beautiful gowns were worn, and every one, beaming with happiness, looked beautiful in whatever garb they wore. Orders, medals, badges, and national ribbons fluttered over happy hearts, and one at least who looked on realised the splendid energy, keen intelligence, ardent aspirations, noble self-sacrifice, and arduous labour which had been poured out like water in the past half century by many who have passed nameless to the shadows to make possible this triumphant gathering of the nurses of the world, possessed as they were by characteristics moulded by knowledge and

suffering, and inspired by the noble ambition to serve and save.

The scene during dinner was most gay and animated, the conversation inspired by softly played music. Barriers of language seemed no impediment to the interchange of expressions of goodwill and happiness, and all present combined to make the occasion one of international gaiety and good comradeship. The Chairman expressed himself as greatly surprised and charmed with the bright and impressive scene at which he was the centre of attraction.

At the conclusion of dinner, Lord Ampthill rose and proposed the first toast of the evening.

THE TOASTS.

THE KING.

LORD AMPTHILL said: I need not remind you of the many occasions on which his Majesty the King has shown great interest in the work of nurses and all that they do. On two special occasions his Majesty has uttered words of encouragement to nurses. Last year, at the opening of the new offices of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, the King said: "It has now happily long been recognised that in the alleviation of pain and sickness good nursing is of supreme importance, and that it is in the interest of the community that measures should be taken to obtain skilled and efficient nurses in increased numbers, and to procure for them such advantages and prospects as will retain them in their profession."

His Majesty had a close acquaintance with the work of philanthropic institutions, and he was deeply interested in the work of nurses, of which he had given evidence by his personal interest in the present Congress.

The toast of the King was then honoured, after which Lord Ampthill proposed as the next toast

THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES AND THE PRESIDENTS OF NATIONAL COUNCILS.

Lord Ampthill said he was unworthy and incompetent to give expression to the sentiments he felt when we were told by a false prophet, who should be nameless, that this great Congress was unrepresentative.

No service which he had rendered to the nursing profession was worthy of mention compared with the years of self-sacrifice of those of whom he had to speak.

He had, however, been asked to undertake this exceedingly pleasant duty. To render due honour to the different Presidents, it would be necessary to do so under seven separate heads, but the unity of purpose and harmony of aim of those concerned made it appropriate that they should be classed together.

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