

hand he recalled the drawbacks—the great self-sacrifice it meant to those who followed their profession. But they must have weighed these things up in their minds. He therefore contented himself with humble admiration for every woman who had embarked on a life of nursing. To him it was a noble and inspired profession.

NURSING AS A PROFESSION.

Nursing had become a profession of recent years, he said, and they could take the credit for having instituted that profession as a nation before all other nations in the world. The foundation was laid by that great and noble spirit, which had so recently passed away, the spirit of "the gentle Lady of the Lamp," Florence Nightingale—one of the noblest and most heroic figures of the Victorian Age. Because the vocation of trained nurses was a regular profession they had duties towards it and towards each other. When they finished their training there they would go out into the world, and would fill positions in the various branches of their profession. But they were not to forget that they belonged to a great corps, to which they owed duties. Their position would compare to the lonely sentinel keeping watch over the slumbering army, or the look-out man on a ship, upon whom depended the safety of numerous persons.

REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

The nursing profession, continued Lord Ampthill, required to be still further organised. They needed the protection of the law just as much as other professions. Like members of other great and honourable professions, they were everyone naturally jealous for their honour. They wished nothing to throw discredit upon it. The only way to preserve that honour was to insure that none who were not worthy were allowed to join their body. They had rightly a feeling of self-interest; they wished to preserve their privileges. They were public-spirited members of the community, anxious that the public should not be in any way misled by people calling themselves fully-trained nurses, but who had not taken the trouble to get the required qualifications. Protection could only be got by protection under the law of the land. Why should they not have registration, if it was accorded to midwives? They had to go through a more arduous training than midwives, who were, generally speaking, women of less intellectual attainments than thoroughly trained nurses. It was thought necessary that they, like lawyers, dentists, doctors, and others, should have statutory sanction for their position, and protection of the law for their rights. People thought that nurses did not require to be registered by statute because they could not register good character, which was the only quality needed. Those who had been working for the prizes knew better than that. They knew that proficiency was required not only in character but in technical skill as well. A duty which devolved upon them was personal consideration of the question of registration.

Lord Ampthill's address was greeted with enthusiastic applause, after which Mrs. Kerr expressed the sincere regret of all her fellow workers at the loss of Miss Bell, who was leaving the In-

firmery to take up the important appointment of Matron to the Melbourne Hospital.

Mr. W. B. Blaikie, in moving a vote of thanks to Lord Ampthill, said it was a great satisfaction to him to know that they had added a new Nurses' Home to the Institution, that they had increased the dining-room accommodation, and that there had been instituted a pension scheme, inadequate to the services of the profession, but less inadequate than any pension given to the nurses hitherto.

The Lord Provost was thanked for presiding on the motion of Colonel Warburton.

FAREWELL TO MISS BELL.

After the prize giving the company adjourned to the dining-room for tea, and greatly admired the proportions of the room, which has been recently much enlarged, and was re-opened on the occasion. The whole staff of nurses came to tea in relays, and after it was over a very interesting little ceremony took place, when the different grades of nurses presented addresses and a beautiful bouquet of pink carnations and white heather to Miss Bell, who was on the eve of leaving for her journey to Australia, there to enter on her new appointment as Lady Superintendent of the Melbourne Hospital. The nurses, who much regretted Miss Bell's departure, would like to have given her some more substantial proof of their esteem and regret had the regulations of the hospital with regard to collecting for gifts permitted it.

THE NEW PENSION SCHEME.

We are informed that with regard to the remark of Mr. Blaikie *re* the pension scheme for nurses, it should be explained that the Managers have recently altered the existing pension scheme, and that under the new scheme, which is non-contributory, Sisters on retiring at the age limit of 55 years, will receive a pension of £40 per annum.

Territorial Nurses at the Mansion House.

The Reception at the Mansion House of the Territorial Force Nursing Service of the City and County of London, on Monday evening last, was a most delightful function, and the hospitality was on the generous scale for which the Mansion House is renowned.

The guests were received by the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, who was a most charming hostess, a guard of honour being formed by sergeants from the First Division, R.A.M.C. The Lady Mayoress was assisted by the following members of the Entertainment Committee: Lady Dimsdale, Lady Mackinnon, Lady Ellis, Mrs. George Byron, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Sidney Browne, R.R.C. (Matron-in-Chief, T.F.N.S.), Miss Goodhue (Hon. Secretary), Colonel Broome-Giles, Colonel Harrison, and Colonel Campbell Hyslop. The nurses were with few exceptions in indoor uniform, and looked very neat and trim, the red Army cape worn by some adding a touch of military brightness to the scene.

A varied and delightful entertainment was ar-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)