

and the excellent menu received much commendation.

After the toast of "The King" had been duly honoured, the chairman, before proposing the toast of the evening, read the following letters from Sister Agnes Karll, President of the German Nurses' Association, and Miss L. L. Dock, secretary of the International Council of Nurses:—

Sister Agnes Karll wrote:—

"May I ask you to give expression to my deep feeling of thankfulness to the Guest of Honour of your dinner of the 14th of December in the Hotel Cecil? I should have been very happy to be with you on this splendid occasion to myself tell about our feelings for Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. I for one do fully realise what these twenty-five years of work of hers have meant to our profession the whole world over. Most of our German Nurses do not at all realise what our work means for public life; they just think of the work they do now, it may be in hospital, district or private nursing. They may do their best, but their eyes are not opened to the far greater duties that lie behind the daily work for all nurses. I think I have felt them instinctively always, but when I see them quite clear now, and fight for them day by day and try to instil them into my German fellow-nurses, I have to thank nobody more for it than Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. Every time I have seen her since 1904 it has meant a great step forward for me in the understanding of our duties in public life and the furthering of our profession. I am always sorry that I do not know your language better, to express all I feel as to how much German nurses have to thank your undaunted battle for the welfare of nursing and nurses. THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING has always given to me new inspiration for my own hard and often hopeless battle; and perhaps I might have lost my courage without knowing what an immense amount of work has been done by so many of you British nurses, most of all by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, to secure our position in public life.

"And so I try to lead the many hundreds of German nurses, who stand behind me, the same way, as best I can, which she led you. I send my heartiest congratulations to your brave champion and all British nurses, who stand by her. May her splendid genius lead you for at least twenty-five years more; you'll need it all the time, as our aims will not easily be gained in any country.

"With all my heart I am with you on the 14th of December.

SISTER AGNES KARLL,

President of the German Nurses' Association.
Hon. President International Council of Nurses.
Hon. Member Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.
Hon. Member National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland."

Miss L. L. Dock wrote:—

"Congratulations on twenty-five years' resolute antagonism to the powers that prey upon women and the opponents of women's professional freedom.

"May you have twenty-five years of enjoyment of victory for the cause of political, economic, and professional enfranchisement."

L. L. Dock.

The following telegrams were also read.

From Miss Lanschot Hubrecht, President Dutch Nurses' Association (Nosokomos):

"Nosokomos offers sincere homage to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick."

From Miss Janet Stewart:—

"Wish you much joy and long-continued success."

THE TOAST OF THE EVENING,

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, GUEST OF HONOUR.

The Chairman, who on rising to propose the toast of the evening was warmly applauded, said:

"We have come together to do honour to our guest, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and to show her, by our presence here, how thoroughly we recognise, value, and appreciate her unceasing efforts during the past twenty-five years to organise the nursing profession on a firm and united basis, the aim and outcome of such organisation to be the improvement and perfecting of the standard of nursing organisation and nursing efficiency."

Referring to Mrs. Fenwick's work as Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, the Chairman continued: "Not one of her probationers here can ever forget the magnificent work accomplished during those six years of Matronship. She did not spare us, but neither did she spare herself."

Before speaking of her public work, Mrs. Spencer said: "In the fascinating personality of our guest we have a very notable and convincing example of the way in which public life and work may be combined with all that makes for perfection in the home. A charming and entertaining hostess she is particularly happy when surrounded by her friends at some genial lunch or afternoon tea-party. Then we admire her lovely collection of china, the many quaint little pictures in needlework, and the altogether entrancing specimens of antique furniture, all of which have been collected and arranged with rare judgment and expert knowledge.

"Mrs. Fenwick's interests outside her home embrace all the immense social questions of the day, and particularly those which in any way concern or affect women, but the work nearest her heart is, and always has been, the advancement of the many nursing organizations she has founded.

"Before leaving the subject of home, let us congratulate Mrs. Fenwick upon having a son who, after a distinguished career at Eton and Oxford, is now a practising barrister on the Northern Circuit. He has inherited his mother's gifts of pen and speech, and is already well-known as a brilliant political orator."

After referring to Mrs. Fenwick's gifts as a writer and journalist, the Chairman, speaking of her work as Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, continued: "Words almost fail, if we

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)