

" These are the two : Pluck and Endurance.

" It is easy to be enthusiastic, and to work hard for a cause for a time—but to go steadily on for a quarter-of-a-century, and to have brought a movement to the position in which that for the State Registration of Nurses is found to-day, and with which Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's name must ever be associated, demands a tenacity of purpose of no common degree.

" The nursing profession is fortunate indeed to include in its ranks so brilliant and public-spirited a member, and who has both the time and ability to devote to the interests of the profession.

" Turning away from Mrs. Bedford Fenwick as a public benefactor, I would desire to express my admiration for her as a friend of many years' standing, and to thank her for very many acts of kindness received at her hands.

" It is with great pleasure I support the toast proposed from the chair : ' Mrs. Bedford Fenwick : the Guest of Honour.' "

Mlle. Danviray (Delegate from the Salpêtrière Nursing School of the Assistance Publique of Paris), addressing the Guest of Honour directly, said : " Allow me, dear Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, in the name of our School, to add our respectful homage to that of the English Nurses. We have a most profound admiration for the work to which you have devoted the last twenty-five years, and our School, although of recent birth, most ardently desires to draw ever closer the bonds which unite it to the English nurses ; and we are deeply grateful for this opportunity of expressing our sentiments."

The toast was then honoured with great enthusiasm.

#### THE THANKS OF NURSES TO DR. FENWICK.

The Chairman then said she was going to propose a toast of her own which was not on the programme. In the early days of nursing organisation, Dr. Bedford Fenwick, when advice and help were necessary, had always been ready with wise counsel and sound advice ; and since nurses had learnt to manage their own affairs, he had left them to do so. She proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Fenwick for his kindness and help in the past, and hoped that Mrs. Fenwick would convey to him the gratitude of those present.

The toast was cordially received.

#### SUCCESS TO THE STATE REGISTRATION MOVEMENT.

Miss E. M. Musson, President of the General Hospital, Birmingham, Nurses' League, who proposed the next toast, " Success to the State Registration Movement," said : " It is not necessary to couple the name of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick with this toast, for it will always be inseparably associated with the registration movement. For twenty-five years she has worked for the benefit and organisation of the nursing profession through State Registration, and although at times faced by disappointment, she has always returned full of vigour and life to the work which we hope and believe will ultimately be crowned with success. We admire her pluck

and her perseverance, and the way in which she has fought for reform and kept the matter before the public. Most of us who are engaged in hospital work are too busy to take a very active share in her labours, and we owe her an enormous debt of gratitude for devoting her time and energy to this question."

Miss Musson then gave some details of the movement for State Registration, and showed that with the growth of exact scientific medical and surgical treatment, scientific nursing is needed to assist it. When an attempt was made to meet the want, nurses were faced by conditions it was necessary to change. There is no minimum standard of training, and in numbers of hospitals the governors make no provision for teaching probationers, who work for a small wage on the assumption that they are receiving a professional training, and who are only saved from the ranks of sweated labour by the devotion with which their services are rendered to the sick. Nurses also suffer from the untrained and fraudulent.

Concluding, Miss Musson said : " Recognising the necessity for organisation, we are here to do honour to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. We admire her for her great courage and perseverance, and we assure her of our confidence and admiration."

The toast was honoured with much acclamation.

#### THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Mrs. Baillie Reynolds, President of the Society of Women Journalists, proposing the toast of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, said : " I am delighted to have the opportunity to be here on an occasion which owes its inception to the enthusiasm of women for a great cause, and to their desire to convey to the woman representing that cause the admiration which they feel. I am here not only as representing the Society of Women Journalists, but also in virtue of a personal friendship, and as a member of the staff of the JOURNAL for more than ten years. I think it very kind of those who have organised this dinner to invite me to speak, though people have different ideas of kindness, and the other day I heard a man say that to be invited to make an after-dinner speech exhibited kindness similar to that of the boy scout who remembering that he had not done his daily good deed, jumped out of bed and gave the canary to the cat.

" I should like to say that the main cause of my admiration for the guest of honour is that she belongs to the pioneers, and usually the pioneers do the work and get the curses, and then someone else steps in and gets all the credit. For nineteen years Mrs. Fenwick, who with wise foresight acquired the *Nursing Record*, now THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, in 1893, has acted as its Hon. Editor. We all see part of the result, but the present generation cannot know the full aim and end of the JOURNAL owned, edited, and controlled by nurses which is now going stronger than ever."

The toast was then honoured, while those near the Editor clinked glasses with her.

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