

IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME TO THE LORD-LIEUTENANT AND LADY WIMBORNE.

Their Excellencies the Lord-Lieutenant and Lady Wimborne on Monday, June 1st, received at the Viceregal Lodge a Deputation from the Irish Nurses' Association, when Miss A. M. MacDonnell, R.R.C., Acting President of the Association, presented an Address of Welcome on behalf of the members.

The following Matrons formed the Deputation:—Miss A. M. MacDonnell, R.R.C. (President I.N.A.), Matron Dublin Castle Red Cross Hospital; Miss Ramsden, Matron, the Rotunda Hospital; Mrs. Manning, Elpis Private Hospital; Miss Bradburn, Matron, the Meath Hospital; Miss Thornton, Matron, Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital; Miss Towers, Matron, the Dental Hospital; Miss Michie, Superintendent Irish Branch Q.V.J.I.

THE ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCIES,—We, the members of the Irish Nurses' Association, desire to offer a respectful welcome to Your Excellency and to Lady Wimborne. We trust that your stay in Ireland may bring happiness to yourselves, and that prosperity and mutual goodwill may mark the period of Your Excellency's administration. The tradition of Irish hospitals and nursing extends far back, almost to prehistoric times. We read of warriors covered with wounds and glory being carried to the camps, where they were met by bands of women trained to nurse the wounded; and how, by the skill of the physician and the care of the women, "who built them for battle once more," they were restored to health and vigour. Nursing by the Religious Orders dates as far back as the end of the fifth century, when the famous St. Brigid and her nuns attended the sick and wounded. The Brehon Laws contain directions for the building of a hospital to each camp and enacted that each building should be open to the North, South, East, and West, and should have a stream of running water flowing through the hospital. These early enactments still find a place in our modern ideas of hygiene. Our Association was founded in 1900, when Her Majesty Queen Victoria visited Ireland, and when nurses banded themselves together to offer an address of welcome to that great and good Sovereign, who instituted the system of trained nursing for the sick poor, and from that time our Association has been a centre where nurses could meet for mutual help and improvement and for the discussion of their work and its aims. Members of the Association worked in South Africa during the Boer War; but at no previous time have our services been more needed than now in this hour of distress. Our members are working in England, France, and Egypt—indeed, all over the world—nursing the wounded, and supplying to them the fully-trained care which is essential to their

improvement and recovery. We know that Lady Wimborne has already done much for Serbia, and having now so graciously received us, we venture to hope that Your Excellencies will give us that kindly interest and support which is so great a stimulus to future effort.

Signed on behalf of the Association,
A. M. MACDONNELL, Acting President.

LORD WIMBORNE'S REPLY.

The Lord-Lieutenant replied as follows:—

Lady Wimborne and myself are greatly interested in what you tell us of the store set by nursing in the days when Irish civilisation was first a lamp in the great darkness of Western Europe, and when somewhat later the noble and holy Saint of Kildare was the light of this land and the healer of the consumptive, the mad, the blind, and the leprous. The nurses of to-day inherit from the sisterhoods of old, and never greater than to-day have been the needs for their ministrations. The power to meet those needs by a sufficiency of highly trained nurses has steadily developed since the earlier years of the reign of the great Queen, whose visit to Dublin led to the creation of the Nurses' Club from which your Association and the Irish Matrons' Association have sprung. From our visits to the hospitals in Ireland, including the one in the management of which Miss MacDonnell takes so prominent a part, we have learned something of the capacity, the skill, and the devotion of the nurses of Ireland, and we rejoice that there should be an Association which assists them in giving expression to their high aims, and imparts that strength to individuals among them which comes from mutual help in a community. You may rely on having always the sympathy of Lady Wimborne and myself, and of receiving such assistance as it may be in our power to render you; and you have our heartfelt thanks for the welcome you have tendered to us and the good wishes you have expressed to us to-day.

A TERRIBLE VISITATION.

It is hardly possible to imagine a more peaceful spot than a quiet convent at Ghent. Into such a haven of rest there crashed, in the early hours of Monday morning the wrecked and burning Zeppelin destroyed by Flight Sub-Lieutenant R. A. J. Warneford, V.C., and the huge mass unhappily set fire to the buildings on which it dropped. The bodies of the crew, most of whom were already dead, were flung around, and two nuns were killed in the fire, as well as a man who was endeavouring to effect rescues, who, with a child in his arms, was killed as he leapt from a burning room. Ancient and modern—peace and war—how long before the world once more enjoys the blessings of peace?

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