

THE CANADIAN NURSES' CLUB.

THE OFFICIAL OPENING BY H.R.H. PRINCESS PATRICIA.

As we published a brief descriptive account of the above club in our last week's issue, it will be unnecessary to do more than supplement that account with a word picture of its opening ceremony, on March 15th.

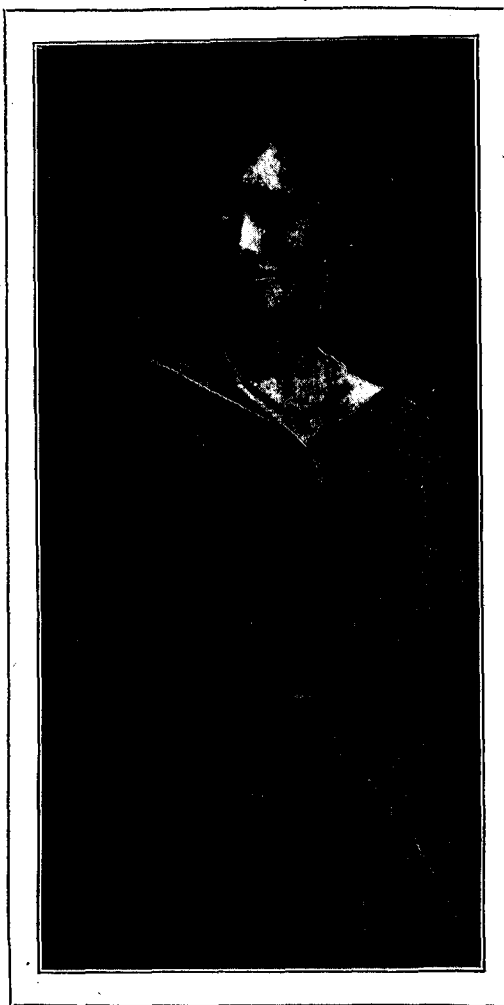
The large and handsome, panelled dining-room, denuded of its chairs and tables, gradually filled with guests as the auspicious hour of three approached, among them—and most conspicuous by their neat and pretty uniform—were a large number of our Canadian Military Sisters. The residents wore indoor uniform. Beautiful Lady Minto looked down from a life-sized canvas with genial welcome upon her guests! Among them we observed also several Canadian officers—medical officers. It was interesting to note that the stars on the shoulder straps were not exclusively worn by these gentlemen, but also by the Sisters, who have officers' rank. Among those present were:—Sir George Perley, High Commissioner for Canada, and Lady Perley; Mr. and Mrs. Percival Ridout (the former is Hon. Secretary of all the Maple Leaf Clubs); Dr. Armour (Col.); Mrs. Robertson-Walker, and many others interested in the new, and, we may add, in view of the comfort of it *unique* club.

The Princess, accompanied by her Lady-in-Waiting, arrived punctually. Lady Perley, Chair-

man of the Committee, in addressing Her Royal Highness, explained the inception and materialisation of the scheme. Such a generous offer as that of the Countess of Minto in lending her beautiful mansion was most thankfully accepted, and Sir George Perley thereupon cabled to Mr. Gooderham, President of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire (living in Toronto), to enquire if the Order would finance the club until it became self-supporting. A reply in the affirmative was immediately sent. Her Royal Highness, in

declaring the club open, said she felt very flattered she had been asked to perform so pleasant a duty, and that she hoped the nurses would have all the rest and comfort that they required and deserved. Mrs. Henshaw proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Princess for her kindness in coming to open the club, and said that she considered that the nurses deserved all that had been done for them, because their magnificent courage during the war had been equal to that of any branch of the service. Miss Macdonald, Matron-in-Chief of the Canadian Army Nurses, seconded the vote of thanks. The meeting then terminated. The guests were afterwards hospitably entertained to tea, the Lady Superintendent, Mrs. Danby Smith, an ex-Sister of the C.A.M.C., giving all a very charming welcome. It is gratifying to learn that the membership already amounts to 300.

The pleasing announcement was made that Sir George Perley had given a handsome donation to the club. B. K.



MRS. DANBY SMITH.

The Times has actually admitted a letter from "A Mere Man," who writes on the "Causes of Discontent of Nurses in France," in which he says "patriotism alone induces many who are on terminable contracts to re-engage, and that dissatisfaction is widespread and profound among Army Nurses of all degrees." We gather that mal-administration results in direct loss of *personnel*, and that petty tyranny and vexatious regulations might be avoided by a wider and more sympathetic outlook by those in power.

We fear the root of the evil is at home, and we need only read the "Serf Clause," in the form which Army Nurses are compelled to sign, to realise where the trouble has its origin. We hope the new Director-General will consider the advisability of revising these Draconian regulations.

Miss Olive Dent, V.A.D., is, we learn, planning to write a book on Nursing. In the meantime we fear probationers must put up with the text books of trained experts!

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