

wounded soldiers are being so deservedly recognised by you to-day. EDWARD WALLINGTON.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

Princess Louise, who, on rising to speak, was warmly applauded, said:—"We are met together here to-day to do homage to the matrons of our hospitals at home and abroad. The nursing organisation, combined with our marvellous achievements in surgery, undoubtedly form the greatest development which science owes to this terrible war. On the matron centres all the working of the hospital—on the matron's tact, knowledge, experience, patience, on her sympathy and true womanliness, on her fearless untiring devotion, cheerfully given to the great charge entrusted to her. Not only does she need these attributes, but she must have the intellectual capacity to make practical use of her gifts. We are indeed thankful that our Empire has given us women who have been able to fulfil this trust and bear this great trust so nobly. We ask them with all our hearts to accept from us our gratitude, thankfulness, and our true appreciation."

An address of appreciation was then read by Mrs. Humphry Ward, who said that they were there to do honour to the heads of the great nursing profession in the British Empire. Everywhere the nursing women of the Empire have followed in the wake of their men, comforting, tending, saving, and so, for these most sufficient reasons those present—whose dear ones had suffered and died in this war—brought their homage and gratitude to the Matrons who were their guests.

Dame Ethel Becher, R.R.C., responded on behalf of herself and her colleagues, and a vote of thanks to the Princess for presiding brought the proceedings to a close.

#### QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S MESSAGE.

The following message was subsequently received from Queen Alexandra:—

Queen Alexandra asks you to thank the Matrons-in-Chief and the representative women assembled in their honour for their kind telegram of loyal greetings, which Her Majesty greatly appreciates.

Queen Alexandra is always glad to hear of any mark of esteem paid to members of the nursing staffs, whose services throughout the war have won them universal praise and gratitude.

ARTHUR DAVIDSON.

It was reported at the quarterly meeting of the Sheffield Royal Hospital that the Matron, Miss A. L. Earle, had been awarded the Royal Red Cross (First Class) in recognition of her services in Mesopotamia. It is nice to see committees appreciating the national services of their matrons.

Everyone will be reading the Memoir of Dr. Elsie Inglis, by Lady Frances Ba'four, and we hope to do it justice at an early date. "From first to last she was a woman nobly planned." In these words Lady Frances sums up the great heroine of the Scottish Women's Units. In 1916,

hearing of the lack of arrangements in Mesopotamia, she determined to get there. She approached a departmental chief, and the historic sentence was uttered: "My good lady, go home and sit still." In that utterance lay the germ of the inspiration which was to carry the Red Cross and the Scottish women among the nations.

Dr Elsie Inglis after fine service in Serbia and Russia, returned, fatally ill, in November, 1917, and died, deeply lamented, by a world at war.

In aid of the Imperial Club for Nurses, 2, Old Steine, Brighton, a most interesting loan exhibition has been on view at the Chapel Royal Hall, Brighton. The club is non-residential and is open from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. for the use of fully and partly trained nurses, V.A.D. nurses, masseuses and dispensers, who pay a small subscription. Notepaper and magazines are provided, and members are entitled to bring friends to the club and tea-room. Money is needed for necessary expenses beyond the members' subscriptions, and a piano is a great want. The club is very largely used by nurses from the local hospitals for recreation in their off duty time. What is really hoped is that the scheme may be developed into a residential club, where Imperial nurses may come for rest by the sea. As an expression of gratitude towards members of the nursing profession, Brighton will do its best to provide them with a residential club. The sum of £2,000 is needed to cover all initial expenses (furnishing, &c.) and to help with the upkeep until the club is self-supporting.

As a practical result of the Conference of British Women War Workers held in Paris in the summer, monthly meetings are now arranged, so that the work in which the various organizations are engaged can be reported and a helpful exchange of experience and opinion results.

On November 7th, Mrs. Charles Scott convened a meeting at which the chief speakers were Mlle. Chaptal for France, Miss E. J. Haswell for England, and Miss Stimson for America. All these ladies are well known as earnest workers for the sick and wounded, and are interested in the wide field of social reform and reconstruction.

We much regret to hear that the splendid Astoria Hotel in the Champs Elysées, Paris, which was converted into a lovely hospital in the early days of the war, has been bought, and the proprietor wishes to use the fine building for its original purpose as an hotel. Thus Miss C. C. du Sautoy and the fine band of nurses she has gathered round her have to "demobilise" at very short notice. This is a thousand pities, but "coming events cast their shadows before them," and peace will mean fewer hospitals will be needed for which let us thank God; and the old order must be reconstructed. Many nurses are now beginning to consider: "What shall I do after the war"?

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