

to-day. We in Scotland have stolen a march upon you, for our club in Glasgow was opened several months ago, and already its membership approaches a thousand, and the use made of it shows that the need for it was broader and deeper than we had imagined." Lady Ailsa then gave a short history of the founding of the Scottish Nurses' Club and paid an eloquent tribute to the work of the nurses. Nurses, she said, had not known how to make the nation's dire necessity their opportunity. No trade union had claimed for them a 12½ per cent. increase, and it was the more a privilege for the public to see that their unadvertised devotion and their silent sacrifice of ease and safety, of health and even of life itself, should receive some expression of appreciation spontaneously offered. Some special need of the nurses should be selected and supplied, and this, neither as a benevolence nor a charity, but as an appreciation, a recognition due, through which to express the gratitude of the people. The nurses are singularly isolated in their work, and they move all day long in an atmosphere of suffering and of death. When her responsibilities are heaviest they are borne in silence and alone. There is no occupation, save that of the medical man, so lonely and in which responsibility is so direct. In bringing the limitations and isolation of the nurse's circumstances before you, I do not forget nor seek to conceal defects in urgent need of reform, but this is neither the time nor the place to discuss them. It is not because of her perfections that I advocate her case, but because I realise the necessity of her service to the community and believe in the dignity and value of her ministry. There is every need for those who are outside the nursing profession to join hands with the best elements within it for, by creating an instructed public opinion, you will most effectively strengthen and encourage the nurses to persevere in their endeavour to raise the whole status of their profession.

Here in London you are singularly fortunate, for whatever sum you may give can be happily entrusted to the Royal British Nurses' Association and the Royal Lady who presides over it—most Royal I may say in her readiness to serve and to efface herself, and in her devotion to the nurses' cause we are privileged to see into the soul of the great-hearted woman who, in sympathy with the true spirit of democracy, with far sight and sound judgment, seeks fearlessly to give her sisters in the nursing profession full scope and opportunity to grow and cultivate their individual powers, assured that only so will they make good citizens, good nurses and good women.

MAJOR J. MCGREGOR ROBERTSON ADVOCATES CHANGE OF ENVIRONMENT.

MAJOR J. MCGREGOR ROBERTSON said that many of his hearers had cause to be grateful for the care and attention of the nurses, and it was surprising that, in the past, they should have been described as futile "feckless" folk in matters concerning their own interests. It was not good

that this should be so, either for the nurses or the community. Apathy had an unquestioned reflex action on the conduct of the individual, who, in consequence, was apt to grow stereotyped and mechanical. It was not good for education and advancement. One result of the proposed scheme would be increased alertness and deeper knowledge on the part of nurses generally. No one knew when he might require the nurse's ministrations. By doing something that would enable the nurses to get away from their daily duties and routine they would be adding considerably to her value to the great suffering public.

ADMIRAL W. S. SIMS CONDEMNNS "WATCH AND WATCH."

ADMIRAL SIMS (U.S. Navy) said that it was not to be expected that a sailor man would know anything about nurses, but as a matter of fact his duties had brought him and his staff into very considerable intercourse with them. He could testify to the sympathy which had been exhibited by his staff for the British nurses. He would like to offer a criticism concerning the way the doctors prescribed that the duties of the nurse should be conducted. The mistake doctors made was in not coming to the Navy men for some advice on the subject. It was distressing to him to find that the nurses stood for what was called "watch and watch" (*i.e.*, twelve hours on and twelve hours off). If the doctors had come to the sailors the latter would have told them that they did not count upon a man being entirely vigilant and efficient in taking care of the bridge of a great ship at sea for more than four hours at a time. As to club facilities, he did not think the ladies of Great Britain had the club facilities that those in the United States possessed; the club spirit among the ladies had not gone so far here. His understanding of the duties of a nurse in the hospital and of the duties of a nurse in a private house was that she did not have opportunities of getting away from her work as business men and nearly all other men did. It was entirely necessary that the nurses should have a house which they could manage for themselves, and he was very glad to support the idea.

RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Lord Mayor then put the resolution to the meeting, and it was carried unanimously.

MR. HERBERT PATERSON THANKS THE LORD MAYOR.

Mr. Paterson then said that it was his privilege to propose a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor, and assured him that the nurses were deeply grateful to him for his kindness. He (Mr. Paterson) had often told the nurses that they were woefully indifferent to their own interests, but he was sure that this reflection would be in some measure dispelled this afternoon, as nothing which the Association had ever done had given such satisfaction to the nurses as the organisation

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