

PRESENTATION TO MISS HEATHER-BIGG.

Miss Villiers (Hon. Treasurer) then said she had a very pleasant duty to perform, namely, to ask Miss Heather-Bigg's acceptance of a gift from the members of the Council. During the whole time that Miss Heather-Bigg had acted as its President she had given to its members and their aims her consistent sympathy and unfailing support, and when she recently retired from the position of Matron of Charing Cross Hospital there was a strong feeling that it was a fitting occasion to make her a presentation which, however inadequate, would convey to her something of the affection and gratitude of the members. The suggestion was most cordially received, and she had now the pleasure and honour of asking Miss Heather-Bigg to accept a small gift—a pin brooch of platinum set with diamonds—which she asked Miss Heather-Bigg to wear as a reminder of the love and gratitude of the members—together with a sheaf of flowers. The balance was presented in a charming note case, which Miss Villiers asked Miss Heather-Bigg to expend herself on something which would give her pleasure.

MISS HEATHER-BIGG'S THANKS.

Speaking with deep feeling, Miss Heather-Bigg said:—

"Were I an orator, I should still find it difficult to express what I am feeling this afternoon.

"I was at a meeting yesterday, when one of the speakers (who had to move a vote of thanks) said he wished very much a new language could be invented, so that he could move his vote of thanks in a fresh and original way.

"I, personally, don't want a new language. I have an affection for the old phrases, old friends. 'Thank you,' when it doesn't simply fall from the lips, but comes from the heart, as it does with me to-day—'Thank you,' is eloquence enough.

"The great thing is not to aim at saying things beautifully, but saying them well, with sincerity and warmth.

"Sincerely and warmly I thank you—I thank you, dear friends and colleagues, not only for these charming gifts, which I shall always prize, but for the affectionate kindness they embody. I shall never wear the brooch without realising the loyalty, kindness and consideration you have shown me during my tenure of office.

"And whenever I think of my gratitude to you, I shall naturally think of my gratitude—rather of *all* our gratitude—to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the pioneer of the movement for securing the self representation of Nurses, and the zealous champion, often at her own cost, of all their vital interests.

"Once again I say 'Thank you all, very much.'"

The meeting then terminated, and the members adjourned to an adjoining room, where tea was served, and many burning professional questions of vital importance to the nursing profession were discussed.

ANNIE E. HULME,
Hon. Secretary.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD., & ITS NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

A meeting convened by the College of Nursing Ltd., to explain its Nurses' Registration Bill was held at 1, Wimpole Street, London, W. 1 on Thursday, January 23rd. The Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the Company, presided. As the College has now been promoting a Bill for nearly three years, and this was the first time that the Council of the College had afforded its members and other nurses an opportunity for a public discussion of its provisions, many gladly availed themselves of the opportunity of doing so.

Some anxiety was felt, after the burking of free speech at Liverpool last spring, contrary to the pledges given beforehand, that discussion would not be permitted, but in response to a question the chairman said that, after the three speakers announced had spoken, there would be opportunity for criticism and discussion, and this opportunity was freely given.

In opening the meeting, Sir Arthur Stanley described it as probably the best and most representative gathering of nurses which had ever taken place. (Cries of "No!")

They of the College of Nursing had, he said, set to work to try to get Parliament to pass a Nurses' Registration Bill. He was sure it was badly wanted. They did not differ in fundamentals from the societies which had been trying for many years to get such a Bill passed, but they did differ as to the method of procedure. They determined to form a Register, and to go to Parliament and ask for statutory powers for the Register so formed. There were now nearly 12,000 names on their Register. Of these all but seven laymen and a few doctors were fully certified nurses.

They had now drawn a Nurses' Registration Bill which had been subjected to careful consideration by Counsel. He would ask Sir Cooper Perry, who knew the Bill better than any one else (we can well believe it—Ed.), to give them the outlines. He would be followed by Professor Glaister and Miss Musson. After that, questions and criticism would be invited.

Sir Cooper Perry (Hon. Secretary of the College) said that the Bill was promoted by the College of Nursing, Ltd.—a Company limited by guarantee, having no share capital and prohibited from making profits or paying dividends. The Bill was an integral part of the programme of the College, which was launched by Sir Arthur Stanley in 1915, in a letter inviting Chairmen of Hospitals, Physicians and Surgeons lecturing to Nurses and the Principals of Nurse Training Schools, and of Nursing Associations, and other persons interested in the education of women, to act as promoters of the College of Nursing. The College was to be a purely voluntary body which would aim at securing the support and sympathy of Governors of Hospitals to which Nurse Training Schools are

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