

resignation which has rarely been excelled, and we recall the beautiful words which, when death was very near, Miss Cavell wrote to a friend:

'Nothing matters when one comes to the last hour but a clear conscience before God. I wish you to know that I was neither afraid nor unhappy, but quite ready to give my life for England.'

"The countless thousands who will pass this spot in our time and in future generations will think with sorrow of her cruel death, with pride of her splendid fortitude, and with affection of her unselfish and womanly character."

"The example of Miss Edith Cavell's life will be always before us, and her name will remain honoured and revered throughout the Empire."

After the Bishop of London, standing at the foot of the steps, had dedicated the statue "to the glory of God, and the immortal memory of Edith Cavell," Queen Alexandra drew the cord handed to her by Sir George Frampton, and simultaneously Miss Beatrice Monk, R.R.C., Matron of the London Hospital, and Miss Beadmore Smith, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, standing on either side of the steps, also drew cords connected with the flags which fell apart, revealing the white marble statue of Edith Cavell, in her nurse's uniform, against the grey granite background.

The brief ceremony concluded with a verse of the hymn, "Abide with me," played by the band under Lieut.-Colonel Mackenzie Rogan, the "Last Post" and the "Reveille."

The figure of Edith Cavell is a beautiful conception, finely executed, but it is overshadowed and dwarfed by the great mass of granite which forms the background; and the squat figure representing Humanity, surmounting it, is as unpleasing as it is curious. We should like to have seen Sir George Frampton's figure raised on a plinth, so as to be seen on all sides. It would, we think, have gained immeasurably by such treatment.

Much indignation has been expressed, not only by trained nurses, but by members of the public present, that even this occasion was utilized to pass round the money-box for the "Daily Telegraph Shilling Fund," for the endowment of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and its Benevolent Fund. Surely the friends of this Company might have refrained from begging alms from a Trafalgar Square crowd on its behalf on such an occasion.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

Princess Mary paid a private visit to the Belgrave Hospital for Children, Clapham Road, last Saturday afternoon. The Princess went round all the wards, and, stopping at each cot, expressed a kindly word of sympathy with each patient. She also made a tour of the out-patients' department and other parts of the hospital.

Her Royal Highness is beginning to take an active interest in social conditions, as all the Royal Family do.

TAKING CREDIT FOR THE WORK OF OTHERS.

Miss Cowlin, at the time organising secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd., has been speaking at Sheffield, Bath and Swansea in its support. We note all the time that the erroneous impression is given that until the College was started there was no attempt to organise the nursing profession. Miss Cowlin is, no doubt, ignorant on the subject, as she did nothing to help in the pioneer movement for reform, but it is distinctly unfair to ignore the truth and mislead the audience. The intelligent and conscientious sections of the profession had won State Registration before ever the lay corporation of the College was incorporated, which determinedly ignored their work. At Sheffield Miss Cowlin pointed out the "needs of a central body with a definite educational policy." Quite so. Every Bill drafted by the Society for the State Registration of Nurses, and the Central Committee, included this provision of a Central Council to define nursing education, and register those nurses who attained the prescribed standard. There is no need of this parrot cry from the College. The Nursing Acts provide such a statutory authority.

At Bath, although Miss Cowlin referred to the "failure" of the Registration Bill to become law she purposely omitted to inform her audience that it was the College Council which obstructed the Bill in the House of Commons, and thus most wickedly risked depriving the profession of State Registration, rather than permit the pioneer Bill to pass. This is an unforgivable act upon the part of the College Council, largely composed of the original "antis."

Replying to a question, the speaker said the State was setting up a general nursing council in connection with State Registration, but the College Register, in her opinion, would be a more reliable register of properly qualified nurses than could otherwise be now compiled.

This attempt to mislead nurses as to the relative value of a statutory and a voluntary Register is as inexcusable as it is stupid.

At Swansea Miss Cowlin again ignored the work of the organised professional nurses, and led her audience to imagine that registration and, in consequence, professional organisation, had never been demanded, until the College Company was formed by laymen in 1916. The Swansea meeting was presided over by Mrs. Moor-Gwyn, and in forming a branch Dr. Lancaster was elected President; and Mrs. Elsworth, Treasurer. Mr. H. Stanley L. Cook has since been appointed Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Where do the nurses come in?

All over the country where local centres of the College are formed lay men and women noble financial control. This is a very dangerous policy for the nurses. Every profession should control its own financial affairs, otherwise it has no freedom of action.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)