

sisters. They work twelve hours per day, and get a whole day off once in each four weeks when possible. While here I have seen nurses, footsore and weary through being on their feet all day, refuse to go off at supper-time in order that they might give attention to two or three very sick patients. One can't buy such devotion. Of course, the hospital authorities are not to blame. They, no doubt, do the best they can with the money at their disposal. It is, I presume, a case of almost universal ignorance, but it is time the community took the welfare of its nurses into its own hands."

We wonder if this accusation of overwork is true. As ardent supporters of the College of Nursing, Ltd., the officials of the R.M.I. have surely adopted the 48-hour week recommended to others.

There has recently been grave distress in the Isle of St. Kilda, one of the Hebrides group—a graphic account of which is given by the captain of the trawler "Active," acting as mail boat between Aberdeen and St. Kilda:—"Out of the sparse population of some eighty islanders, sixty were prostrated with influenza. All work in the island—the tending of sheep flocks, the spinning of wool, and fishing—is at a complete standstill, but fortunately the supplies of foodstuffs landed by the 'Active' have now alleviated the starvation which for a time threatened the people of St. Kilda. There is, however, a lamentable dearth of medical skill and medicines for those stricken with illness. With commendable zeal Nurse Mackenzie, a Glasgow lady, has taken residence on the island, and the skipper reports that, although she is almost 'worked off her feet,' she is unable, owing to the lack of medical supplies, to cope adequately with the epidemic.

"During the war," says the *Times*, "the cable from the island to the mainland was destroyed by submarines, and at present the only medium of communication possessed by the islanders is through the trawler 'Active.'"

In view of the serious nature of the outbreak, Dr. Shearer, one of the Medical Officers of the Scottish Board of Health, left Edinburgh to join the boat, which probably arrived nearly three weeks after Nurse Mackenzie's first message intimating the outbreak and asking for stores.

It is fortunate that neither the Highlands and Islands Medical Service Board, nor the Scottish Board of Health, have had, says the Board, difficulty in finding highly trained and capable nurses willing to undertake the responsibility of serving in this lonely post.

PRESENTATION TO MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

ADDRESS OF THANKS.

On Saturday, May 8th, some fifty friends and colleagues of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick assembled at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, to present to her an Address of Thanks for her long years of arduous work for the organisation of the nursing profession by the State, to congratulate her on its success, and to ask her acceptance of a cheque "to be expended for her own use and pleasure," as well as of the History of St. Bartholomew's Hospital—by Sir Norman Moore—where she had so honourable and distinguished a career as Matron and Superintendent of Nursing. The illuminated frontispiece of this was inscribed:—

"Presented to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick by some of her friends, in grateful acknowledgment of her life's work for the organisation of nurses, and especially for securing the State Registration of nurses in the United Kingdom. They congratulate her on its successful accomplishment, December 23rd, 1919."

The house was filled with beautiful flowers—lilies, roses, azaleas, tulips, iris, lilac, blue and white hyacinths—a perfect blaze of colour; many sent up from the country by friends unable to be present, and much admiration was expressed for the lovely old Chinese and English porcelain, of which Mrs. Fenwick is a keen collector and connoisseur, *famille rose*, armorial, soft paste Lowestoft, Worcester, and apple-green Rockingham, and other choice specimens, the collection of which has been the one recreation which Mrs. Fenwick has enjoyed during her forty years' strenuous professional work.

THE PRESENTATION.

The presentation was made by Miss Mildred Heather-Bigg, R.R.C., a keen supporter of State Registration of nurses and most loyal of friends. On her right was Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and on her left Dr. Bedford Fenwick.

On rising to make the presentation, Miss Heather-Bigg said those present had assembled on a most inspiring and momentous occasion, the memory of which they would always cherish. In that room thirty-two years ago the movement for the State Registration of trained nurses was initiated by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. To-day its triumph was assured, the victory won, and they were there to rejoice with her that the State Registration of trained nurses was an established fact. In the course of the long campaign there had been

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