

## GUILD OF ST. BARNABAS FOR NURSES. ANNUAL FESTIVAL.

Following the precedent of "elder years," the forty-fifth anniversary of the Guild was marked, this year, on St. Barnabas' Day, with the same happy fusion of lavish hospitality, fruit, flowers and friendship. The festival of Tea (which is a comprehensive word, and means much more besides) spread itself over two hours, in the hall of the Church of the Holy Redeemer, Clerkenwell, where nurses kept dropping in as it suited their convenience, to partake of tea and coffee and multifarious cakes, to the tune of happy greetings and conversations informal and unrestrained. The special office for the anniversary was afterwards said in the church by the Chaplain-General the Rev. E. F. Russell, and the sermon—which must have greatly impressed the hearers—was preached by the Lord Bishop of Grahamstown. Taking his text from the Epistle for the day: *Then the disciples every, man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judæa, which also they did by the hands of Barnabas and Saul*, the Bishop emphasised the point that the office of intermediary or agent was one of the highest importance, because the Almighty always makes use of intermediaries when He desires to convey any kind of blessing. These human agents were the carriers of temporal blessings of great necessity. "Man in his completeness belongs entirely to God," and duties and responsibilities follow naturally upon the endowment of gifts. Pointing to the analogy of the nurse receiving the gifts of her training and her skill, the preacher remarked that they had been given for the *benefit of others*, and that if the powers bestowed were used primarily for the glory of God, the profession of nursing became a vocation.

Part III of the festival comprised the business meeting; not entirely grave, nor yet entirely gay, but containing the elements of both. This was held in the Finsbury Town Hall, which was packed with an audience of probably four or five hundred nurses. The pleasure felt by all at the sight of the Chaplain-General, recovered from his recent serious illness, and in his usual place in the chair, was marked by deafening applause; scarcely less was that which greeted the announcement that the Superior, Mrs. Gardner—affectionately known by the title she loves so well, the "Guild Mother,"—had been re-elected for a further term of three years. In a few well-chosen words she responded gracefully to her electors. Miss Wood's appearance on the platform was also warmly applauded.

The Bishop of Nyasaland spoke for a few minutes about the work of his diocese, and told how readily the Guild nurses always responded to his appeal for workers. He did not know what Miss Simpkin meant, but she had bid him ask the nurses to secure and send out gifts of B.I.P.

The popular Archdeacon of London did not fail us, which means that he did not cheat us out of the hearty laugh he always calls forth.

Taking for his text the well-worn word "Fusion" (non-political), he admirably moulded it to fit the life and needs of the members of the Guild. The right kind of fusion, he said, was that which knit the personal with the vocational, the womanhood of the nurse with her profession.

The meeting sent a message to Mr. Bell Cox, Chaplain of the Liverpool Branch, *Fidei Defensor*, who for the first time for many years was unable to be present.

The meeting terminated with the blessing pronounced by the Bishop of Nyasaland. The Bishop of Grahamstown was also on the platform.

B. K.

## THE BABIES' HOTEL.

On June 11th, Her Royal Highness Princess Christian formally opened the American Red Cross Babies' Home, and Training School for Children's Nurses, which is situated in Glebe Place, Stoke Newington. The Home has been running for a year, but from various causes the formal opening has been from time to time postponed. This is another venture for the relief of the professional classes. As the small inmates are drawn from that source alone, applications for admission are only entertained on the distinct understanding that the parent or parents of the children are from one cause or another unable to make a home for them. Some of the babies are the children of war widows who are obliged to earn their own living. Some of actors and actresses on tour, some are motherless and their fathers abroad, and so on. The charge for maintenance is on a sliding scale according to means, and the decision is made by a committee—the minimum £1 1s., and maximum £2 12s. 6d. The friends of course provide the clothes. These fees are not sufficient to meet expenses (as the accommodation is for eighteen only). It was hoped that the fees of the pupil nurses would cover the deficit. This however has not proved to be the case, as a sufficient number of pupils willing to pay for their training has not been forthcoming. The committee have therefore decided to give a free training with board and lodging, in return for work.

Each pupil has the entire charge, under trained supervision of two babies, for whom she has to do everything; and she has to take her turn every alternate fortnight in sleeping in the room with three or four of her little charges. She has to prepare their meals, wash their "woollies," play with them, and in fact learn and practise entire "baby craft."

A charming pair of old houses has been secured facing on to Clissold Park.

The day room of the tiny babies is panelled and distempered in pink, and in each panel some talented artist has painted in oils studies of animal life—bunny rabbits, cockadoodles, moo-cows, and many others of a nature to fascinate small folk. But all in vain were the cocks crowing

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