

MISS HUXLEY ENTERTAINS THE IRISH MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

REJOICINGS IN DUBLIN.

A successful and very pleasant function was the dinner given by Miss Huxley, the pioneer of Irish Nursing, to the members of the Irish Matrons' Association, on Tuesday, January 27th, to celebrate the passing of the Nurses' Registration Act. A goodly company assembled at the Bonne Bouche Restaurant, Dawson Street, Dublin, and were received by the hostess of the evening.

THE GUESTS.

Miss Michie, Superintendent Irish Branch Q.V.J.I., President Irish Matrons' Association, Miss Hutchinson, Miss Sampson, Mrs. Manning, Miss Hill, R.R.C., Matron Adelaide Hospital, Miss Carre, Ivanhoe, Miss O'Brien, Miss Carson Rae, Miss Phelan, Miss Keating, Miss Towers, Miss Hezlett, Miss Egan, Miss O'Flynn, Miss Crowther, St. Patrick's Q.V.J.I., Miss Thornton, Miss Reeves, President Irish Nurses' Association, Miss Hughes, Miss Burkitt, Miss Bradburne, Miss Golding, Miss Rhodes, Miss Riordon, Miss Power, Miss Macdonnell, R.R.C., and Miss Patton.

The dining-room was charmingly arranged with oval mahogany tables artistically set out with shining glass and silver and decorated with mimosa and violets, the blue frocks of the waitresses striking an effective note against buff-coloured walls.

The dinner of seven courses made one feel that the past five years were as a dream, and that the Lamp of Aladdin must have been used to conjure back days of plenty and delight when pleasant faces and pretty frocks were an ordinary sight. Miss Huxley occupied the chair, on her right hand Miss Michie, President of the Irish Matrons' Association, on her left Miss Reeves, President of the Irish Nurses' Association.

The health of His Majesty the King having been proposed and duly honoured, Miss Huxley welcomed her guests.

THE SPEECH OF THE HOSTESS, MISS HUXLEY.

LADIES,—I wish I were a good speaker and that I could make you realise the very great pleasure and satisfaction your presence here to-night gives me, a pleasure which I promised myself at least twenty years ago, probably even longer.

In those early days we little thought of all the difficulties and anxieties we should have to pass through before attaining the fulfilment of our desire.

On this occasion I will not pause to recall all the discouragement we received, when our opponents could not shake our determination to try to procure State Recognition for ourselves. One memorable occasion I call to mind when, after a somewhat stormy meeting, we were described in a London paper next day as the "turbulent few." I leave to your imagination the kind of meeting that one was!

As most of you know, we have spent much time and hard-earned money in order to procure the event we are here to celebrate, and though our success has not come exactly in the way we hoped it would, at least we may congratulate ourselves that our determination in the past was a strong factor in the framing of this broadly-conceived Act.

The Act gives nurses a big representation and share in the framing of rules for their future government, education and status.

The other day, Dr. Addison, Minister of Health for England and Wales, urged nurses to be citizens first and professional women after; that I take as a distinct call to us to help our Minister of Health with all our might, we are to be his help-mates, and in order to stand in that important position we must at once see to our education; that, as a professional body, we are suitably educated to help him in making the nation healthy and strong. I think the Irish Matrons' Association should take the matter in hand at once and plan a scheme for lectures in sanitation, hygiene, preventive medicine, and child welfare, and also lectures giving a working knowledge of the various Acts of Parliament affecting public health; not till then can we hope to be of full use to him.

One of the first essentials in such a scheme is that we should try to work altogether for the common good, not one training school against another, and this I think could most effectively be done by co-operation. A central school, where the best lecturers obtainable could be engaged and the necessary appliances secured to benefit all alike.

To-night our memories recall with both gratitude and regret those who laboured with us, gave of their best to our cause, and have passed away without seeing the result of their labour. Chief among them, the late Mrs. Kildare Tracey and Lord Justice Fitzgibbon.

We also remember many other absent colleagues, such as Misses Kelly, Hampson, Lamont, and Ramsden, who have retired from active service and, unfortunately, live too far away to be with us to-night; they one and all wrote sending their congratulations and saying that they will be with us in spirit and wishing that our future efforts may be as successful as our lengthy struggle has been. We must also remember with gratitude our friends and supporters across the sea, who are almost too numerous to mention by name—both men and women—and from first to last and all the way through the struggle, let us never forget all we owe to our courageous, valiant, and indomitable leader, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, she who, through all the years has marched straight forward with the one aim and purpose, never heeding friend or foe—and they were many. She has been our inspiration and guide, the pilot who has brought us through rough waters to the port of our desire. All honour to her name. Ladies, I ask you to drink to the health of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. This was done with right good will.

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