

"A PROUD DAY FOR BART'S."

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, President of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, happily interpreted the feelings of the staff of the hospital when he told the Queen, on February 17th, when her Majesty visited the hospital to lay the Foundation Stone of Queen Mary's Home for St. Bartholomew's Nurses, that it was "a proud day for Bart's."

The grand old Square lent itself admirably to a function of this kind. Round the fountain students foregathered, and patients, some on stretchers with the characteristic scarlet blankets and others in wheel chairs, and groups of nurses, added to the picturesqueness of the scene. The coming of the Prince of Wales, the staff, past and present in academic robes, the nurses passing to and fro to take up their positions in forming the Guard of Honour for the Queen, all were noted, while at every ward window eager faces peeped for a glimpse, if it might be, of the Royal visitors.

The large pavilion erected on the ground between the hospital and the General Post Office, which held over 1,000 people, was filled to the limit of its capacity. On the dais at the end, decorated with the national flags, a chair of State for her Majesty, in gold and crimson, occupied the central position. To the right, as one faced the platform, the great stone hung suspended. Below, the decorations very effectively carried out were palms, arum lilies, azaleas and blue cinerarias. The string band of the Honourable Artillery Company was in attendance, by the kind permission of Colonel the Right Honourable the Earl of Denbigh, C.V.O., A.D.C., T.D., and during the time that the audience was assembling, rendered an admirable programme of music.

Her Majesty, on her arrival, by way of the Smithfield Gate, was received by the Prince of Wales, who, as President, presented to her the Treasurer and Almoners, the Chairman of the Nurses' Home Building Committee, the Senior Physician, the Senior Surgeon, the Hon. Secretary Nurses' Home Appeal Committee, the Clerk to the Governors, Mr. Thomas Hayes, the Matron and Superintendent of Nursing, Miss McIntosh, C.B.E., R.R.C. and the Assistant Matron, Miss Baines. The Queen, who was accompanied by Princess Mary, and attended by the Dowager Countess of Airlie and Mr. Harry Verney, wore a most becoming coat of black velvet, embroidered with silver, furs of silver fox, and a mauve toque, with which the bouquet of lovely orchids presented by Miss McIntosh harmonised charmingly. Princess Mary, who wore black relieved with blue, was presented by Miss Baines with a bouquet of pink carnations.

Among those present, wearing the Badge of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses were Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, a former Matron of the hospital, Miss Beatrice Cutler, formerly Assistant Matron, Miss Beadsmore Smith, R.R.C., Matron-in-chief of Queen Alexandra's Imperial

Military Nursing Service, the Matrons of University College Hospital, the Royal Free Hospital, the General Hospital, Birmingham, many gold medallists and other distinguished graduates of the School. The President of the Nurses' League, Miss Helen Todd (Inspector under the Ministry of Pensions) was allotted, as was fitting, a seat on the platform, for, as its elected leader, she represents over 1,000 certificated Bart's nurses. Mrs. Lancelot Andrews and Miss Margaret Breay, Vice-Presidents of the League, were present, and a number of matrons and nurses of other schools came to rejoice with their colleagues at Bart's, including Miss Lloyd Still, C.B.E., R.R.C., Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital, Dame Maud MacCarthy, Matron-in-chief, T.F.N.S., and Miss Constance Todd, M.M., R.R.C.

On her arrival at the pavilion the Queen had a most enthusiastic reception, not least from the sisters and nursing staff and repeatedly bowed her acknowledgments.

The prayers offered by the Bishop of London (whose pastoral staff was carried by the Rev. R. Moseley, Vicar of St. Bartholomew's-the-less, and Chaplain to the hospital) were specially appropriate, and the following Address was then read by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, in his capacity of President of the hospital:—

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY: May it please your Majesty,—As president of the Royal Hospital of St. Bartholomew, and on behalf of the Governors, I desire to express to your Majesty, with loyal duty, our very grateful appreciation of your unfailing interest in the welfare and progress of the institution, and of the honour you have conferred upon the hospital in coming here to-day to lay the foundation stone of the new home for the nursing staff, which your Majesty has been graciously pleased to allow to bear your name. The Governors have long recognised the need of improved accommodation for the nursing staff, and are deeply grateful that, thanks to public munificence, they are now in a position to erect the first block of a new home which will ensure healthy conditions of housing, comfort, convenience, and economy of administration. The building will be simple and practical in construction, and, as planned, can be erected in blocks as funds for the purpose are available without materially augmenting the cost. Each block, and each floor in each block, is self-contained, and can be isolated entirely, if necessary, without in any way interfering with access to, or the utility of, the remainder of the building. Your Majesty's presence here to-day is a further testimony of the solicitude you have always shown for the health and comfort of those engaged in the nursing of the sick, and I desire to assure you of the deep sense of gratitude your Majesty's gracious and sympathetic interest has inspired in every person in this most ancient and charitable foundation of the City of London. It but remains for me to ask that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to lay the foundation stone of this new home for St. Bartholomew's nurses.

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