

place. Here a sheaf of fragrant Mme. Abel Chateaux roses, tied with a soft vieux-rose riband, was offered to Princess Christian, for her acceptance, by Nurse Gillighan, and Nurse Sheehan presented to Princess Marie Louise a bouquet of mauve irises and pink gladioli.

Amongst the invited guests were the Mayor of Kensington, wearing his badge of office, and Mrs. Rice Oxley, the Countess of Carnarvon, Lord and Lady Morris, Sir Anderson and Lady Crichton, Sir Stanley and Lady Hewitt, Lady Duckworth, Dr. Chapple, Mrs. Lessing, Mr. and Mrs. Montagu Price, Mrs. Herbert Pater-son, Mrs. Kenneth Stewart, Dr. Goodall, O.B.E., and Mrs. Goodall, Dr. and Mrs. Morison, Dr. Courtenay Lord (of the British Medical Association), Mr. and Mrs. Pitt, and Mrs. Carter Braine. Some hundreds of members of the Association were also present.

THE OPENING CEREMONY.

Prayers were offered by the Sub-Dean of the Chapels Royal, the Rev. Canon Edgar Sheppard, D.D., who was vested in surplice and hood, and wore the Victorian Order, the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and a number of others. They were:—

I.

"O Lord Jesus Christ, Who dost ever have compassion on those who suffer, bless, we pray Thee, all whom Thou hast called to the Ministry of Healing. May Thy Heavenly and special Protection be over all Doctors and Nurses, and especially upon those connected with this Association and Home. Give them skill, tenderness, patience, sympathy and endurance in their often uphill work. May they—to quote the words of the old motto of the Royal British Nurses' Association, chosen by its Royal President, Princess Christian, more than thirty years ago—be ever 'Steadfast and true,' and may this be always uppermost in their words and their deeds. May they all have grace to follow Thy blessed example of love, humility, and unflinching pity, that they may finally receive their heavenly reward from Thee, Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen."

II.

"Almighty God, Whose Blessed Son Jesus Christ went about doing good, and healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people, continue, we beseech Thee, His gracious work in the hospitals and infirmaries of our land. Let Thy heavenly protection ever be over them, and we specially pray that Thou wilt bless all who by their piety, their gifts, and labour of love may help forward this noble and self-denying work, and may all who serve Thee faithfully here be rewarded in Thine own good time, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

The brief service closed with the Benediction.

THE PRESIDENT'S OPENING SPEECH.

Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, President of the Association, then said:—

It gives me great pleasure this afternoon to open the new Headquarters and Club of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and to congratulate its members on the materialisation of a scheme which I regard as one which will promote not merely the many-sided activities of the Association itself, but which will be of benefit to the whole profession.

As you know, this scheme for founding a Club for nurses is one which has been very close to my heart, and it is a peculiar pleasure to me to feel that in carrying it to a successful conclusion I have owed so much to the co-operation and loyalty of the nurses themselves—to that loyalty on which I have always been able to rely throughout all the years during which I have been your President. I know that it must be a source of satisfaction to you to feel that you yourselves subscribed the money which placed your Council in a position to negotiate for the lease of this house and to undertake the responsibilities thereby involved.

But, while thanking the members for their part in establishing this Club, I know that they would be distressed indeed were I not to refer also to the great kindness of Sir Harold Boulton and the Committee of Queen Mary's Hostel for Nurses. As I stated, in a letter to the members of the Corporation a few weeks ago, Sir Harold and his Committee have shown the most wonderful kindness to the nurses in handing over to them the whole of the furniture and equipment of Queen Mary's Hostel for Nurses. This act of generosity will, I hope, live long in the memory of the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

I have learnt that it is the intention of the nurses to raise an Endowment Fund for the principal room in the Club, and to connect that room with my name. This gives to me great pleasure, and very often my thoughts will be with you when you gather together there during your off-duty time or, it may be, to promote the various schemes which, from time to time, your Association finds it good to undertake.

I need hardly say that you have my heartfelt good wishes for the success of your new enterprise; for the progress of your profession and the welfare of its members have been a matter of life-long interest to me. Throughout all those years during which I have been President of this Association, I have tried to be no mere figure-head, and have been in very close touch with all its activities. It is now

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