

at an early date, and at the same time welcome existing nurses who produce certificates from Ireland. I sincerely hope before very long we shall also be able to welcome existing nurses from Scotland.

Our hard-worked Sub-Committee, composed of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Cox-Davies, and Miss Villiers, aided by our excellent Registrar, has not spent its time in vain, but has been busy in adorning these premises for the Council. Here will be carried on the work we already have in hand for the education and examination of nurses, also the great scheme for the affiliation of smaller hospitals and infirmaries to the larger schools of training. Here will be considered all that will tend to advance the interests of the profession upon whom we all must call at some period of our lives, whether we like to admit it or not.

I will now ask the Venerable Archdeacon of London to invoke the blessing of Almighty God upon our labours.

The Archdeacon of London Invokes a Blessing.

The Archdeacon of London, Canon E. E. Holmes, B.D., then asked all present to join in reciting the Lord's Prayer, and afterwards invoked a blessing on the General Nursing Council and its work, and on the House in which that work is to be conducted.

Princess Christian Declares the Headquarters Open.

Her Royal Highness Princess Christian then declared the Headquarters of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales open in the following words:—

It gives me great pleasure to declare open the Headquarters of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and to personally congratulate you on the recognition and protection which the Registration Act gives to your profession.

Your Council is representative of all parties in that profession, and I know that all will join hands in one common endeavour to promote the well-being and prosperity of the Nursing Profession so that this House may become a temple of harmony and peace from which will emanate great and beneficent influences for the relief of suffering and the preservation of health.

The words of Her Royal Highness were received with warm applause; after which she passed across the corridor to the Registrar's Office, where she inspected the excellent arrangements, and expressed her approval.

Presentations to Her Royal Highness.

Here the Chairman presented to the Princess all the Members of the Council able to attend; the Senior Officials; the Mayor of Marylebone and his daughter (Mr. and Miss Rickatson); Major Barnett, M.P.; and others.

The Members of the Council present were Lady Hobhouse, J.P.; Dr. E. W. Goodall, O.B.E.; Mr. T. Christian; Miss A. Coulton; Miss R. Cox-Davies, R.R.C.; Miss A. Dowbiggin, C.B.E., R.R.C.; Mrs. Bedford Fenwick; Miss A. Lloyd Still, C.B.E., R.R.C.; Miss E. M. MacCallum; Miss I. Macdonald; Miss E. Smith; Miss E. C. Swiss; Miss S. A. Villiers; and Miss C. Worsley.

Amongst the guests who accepted the invitation of the Council, at very short notice, were the Countess of Kenmare, a member of the General Nursing Council for Ireland; the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley; Mrs. J. C. Priestley; the Ven. Canon Holmes, Archdeacon of London; the Mayor of Marylebone; Mr. L. G. Brock (Ministry of Health) and Mrs. Brock; the Matron-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service; the Matron-in-Chief of the Royal Air Force; the Matrons of St. Bartholomew's, Guy's, the London, Middlesex, King's College, St. George's, Westminster, and University College Hospitals; Miss B. Cutler, Hon. Secretary of the National Council of Trained Nurses; Councillor Beatrice Kent, the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council; Miss H. L. Pearse, President of the National Union of Trained Nurses; Mrs. Paul, of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses; Miss Rundle, Secretary, College of Nursing, Ltd.; Miss Barton, President Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association; Mr. Johns, of the Asylum Workers Union, and a large number of Chairmen and Matrons of London Hospitals and Poor Law Infirmaries.

The Reception.

Her Royal Highness took tea in the charming Reception Room on the ground floor. This room (for the special use of nurses and visitors), with delicate blue grey walls, and wood work in white, the hearth tiles of pale blue, and carpet in Persian tones, is furnished with bits of old Sheraton. Amongst them a beautiful bureau—at which, let us hope, many nurses will fill in their Registration Forms—and in which a collection of fine blue and white 18th century English pottery has been loaned and arranged by Mrs. Fenwick.

The flowers in this room toned delightfully—pale pink peonies and blue delphiniums—and on the tea tables vases of shaded pink sweet peas and a *garniture de cheminée*, of the same delicate blooms on the mantel—an environment worthy of a Royal Princess!

Here Princess Christian was most gracious and kind to everyone, and discussed with those engaged in the responsible and difficult work of organising the Nursing Profession through the Registration Act, the present and future conditions of Nursing, with a wide knowledge of the whole subject, in which she has taken, for so many years, a keen personal interest, and which she understands more thoroughly than any other Lady of the Royal House.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)