

A GREAT FORWARD MOVEMENT IN THE HISTORY OF SCOTTISH NURSING.

Monday, December 5th, marked an important epoch in the history of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow. The occasion was a Re-union of Past and Present Nurses of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary at a Dinner held in the Athenæum Restaurant. A very large and representative gathering drawn from every generation of nurses since the year 1879, when Mrs. Strong was first appointed Matron, to the youngest Sister at present on duty in the Infirmary, united with unbounded enthusiasm and most delightful memories to make the evening a complete success.

The chair was taken by Mrs. Strong, and among those supporting her were: Miss Donaldson, Matron, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow; Miss Thomson, Matron of Perth Royal Infirmary; Miss McLaren, Matron of the Ophthalmic Institution (Royal Infirmary, Glasgow); Miss Filley, Matron, Greenock Infirmary; Miss Cameron, Matron, Schaw Convalescent Home, Bearsden; Miss Deane, Matron, Cottage Hospital, Kilsyth; Miss Stewart, Matron, Upper Town Sanatorium, Longriggend; Miss Blyth, Matron, Duke Street Prison, Glasgow; Miss Heriott, Matron, Blantyre Cottage Hospital; Miss Stewart (Member of the General Nursing Council for Scotland), Scottish Nurses' Club; Miss Allan, Park Nursing Home, Glasgow; Miss Williamson, Assistant Matron, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow; and a large number of Nurses, not only from all over Scotland but from England and other parts of the Empire.

The large Hall in the Restaurant had been most tastefully and daintily prepared, and the table decorations of deep red carnations, asparagus fern and pink roses, were exquisite. Owing to lack of accommodation, only a few outside guests could be invited, but there were present: Mr. James Macfarlane, Chairman of the Board of Managers; Dr. Maxtone Thom, Medical Superintendent; Mr. James Craig, Chairman of the House Committee; Mrs. Balmain, Lady Manager; Professor Glaister, Glasgow University; and Mrs. Thom, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow. Letters of apology were read from Miss Melrose, R.R.C., late Matron, who is at present in Italy; from Sir Donald McAllister, Principal of the University of Glasgow; Mr. John Glen; Mr. Cross; Mr. Morrison Smith; Miss Elmslie, R.R.C.; and Miss McTavish.

The Dinner was worthy of the highest Scottish traditions, and the toasts were worthily rendered in Binet Medallion Rouge, the kind gift of the Chairman, Mr. Macfarlane, and Mr. James Craig.

THE TOASTS.

"THE KING."

The toast of "The King" was duly honoured.

"THE ROYAL INFIRMARY."

Dr. J. Maxtone Thom, then, in a masterly speech, sketched the great history of the Royal

Infirmary, Glasgow, with a striking allusion to Lord Lister, and he augured even more triumphs in the future than those already won.

Mr. Macfarlane, replying, stated that no gathering in which he had been privileged to take part since his association with the Glasgow Royal Infirmary gave him more pleasure or made him feel more proud than on that truly wonderful occasion which they were met to celebrate. He emphasised the point that the success of any Institution or any movement depends upon the freshness and youthful enthusiasm of the movement. Such gatherings as these helped to keep up that enthusiasm.

"THE DISTINGUISHED GUESTS."

Miss Donaldson, in proposing "The Distinguished Guests," said: Mrs. Strong, Ladies and Gentlemen, the mighty past of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, about which we have just heard from our Superintendent (Dr. Thom) and our Chairman (Mr. Macfarlane), is both romantic and thrilling, and I rejoice with you in your great inheritance; what concerns us all deeply is that we should see and measure in what direction we, as a Training School, and as a profession, are now tending. I trust that we shall not be looked upon as falling into the error of judging this generation mainly by its surface currents; but to the clear vision, illuminated by the experience of the past, there are dangers ahead, even in this memorable year, when, after forty years' wandering in the wilderness, we as a Profession, have crossed the "Red Sea" and hail the "Promised Land" now in sight. (Loud applause.)

There are always ages of sowing and ages of reaping, and, we doubt not, the future promises to be more productive of triumph than the past, and yet the anxiety remains, lest by any mistakes or cowardice on our part, the fruits of victory elude our grasp. It is for this reason, I am so glad to be allowed to propose the health of our "Distinguished Guests" to-night, for their sympathy, their ripe experience, their knowledge of men and affairs, will be of inestimable value to us in helping us to shape aright our course. There is no doubt that the victory will only be assured to us by constant and expert vigilance, by wisdom and prudence and self-effacement, by proclaiming those great ideals of the Nursing Profession in season and out of season, for which the battle of our great ones has been fierce and strong. The youth of the Profession, whose heritage has been won for them by the older generations, must be bound to us by the chains of a mighty love and a great enthusiasm. It is for this reason, therefore, that we are seizing the opportunity of bringing before this representative body the concrete proposition of a Glasgow Royal Infirmary Past and Present Nurses' League.

One of the noblest sentiments of our beloved country is that loyalty which binds a man or woman to his public school, university or hospital with an affection purged of all rancour and jealousy; it is a stimulus to all honourable conduct

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