

atic training of nurses into being, she was followed by Miss Melrose, and now the present staff, with Miss Donaldson at the helm, promises well for the future. One almost envies the new recruits to the profession, now a registered profession, and may I say at this point how essential it is that every nurse should register at once. What with better conditions, shorter hours on duty, and more adequate remuneration, the present-day nurse has every chance of doing well.

Miss Mitchell, in proposing the Toast to the "Past Nurses," has generously acknowledged the work done by them, we, with every confidence can trust the present staff to "carry on."

Ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to drink to the health of the Matron and the present nursing staff of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

Sister Rodriguez, in reply, said: Mrs. Strong, ladies and gentlemen. As Miss Stewart has said, there are easier times ahead of us. We are reaping the benefits of the long and persevering fight which it took to bring about State Registration, but with State Registration we now have the State Examination. Our first glance through the Syllabus, and the prospect of our new responsibilities in the preparation of nurses for the examination, rather appalled us Sisters, but realising the splendid training we received during our period of probation in the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, we feel quite capable of teaching any Syllabus set down by the State for the examination of nurses. We are grateful to the nurses of the past for the fine traditions they have handed down to us. It will be our aim at all times to maintain that tradition.

"THE CHAIRMAN."

Sister Nisbet said: I feel that it is a great honour to be called upon to propose the health of our Chairman, Mrs. Strong, whom we are all so pleased to have with us to-night. She has been one of the greatest pioneers in the Nursing Profession. Every nurse here could speak of the great improvements which she instituted during her term of office, and the great efforts she has since made for the improvement of the conditions of the Nursing Profession.

Sister Craig supported Sister Nisbet, and said: We of the earlier Glasgow Royal Infirmary Nurses know what Mrs. Strong has done for the Infirmary, and for the nursing profession generally. We hope she will be long spared to be a felt influence amongst us. I, therefore, have much pleasure in upholding Sister Nisbet's Toast. Ladies and Gentlemen—Mrs. Strong.

The toast was received with great enthusiasm.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPLY.

In reply, Mrs. Strong said:

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am expected to make a speech to-night, but you have left me nothing to say.

I do not think that such a gathering as this should be without a mention of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's name. I do not think that anyone has given more—herself and her money for the advancement of the nursing profession—than Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. She began the battle

thirty years ago, in the face of opposition from many London Matrons, and you must not misunderstand me, even of Miss Nightingale.

Miss Nightingale said that in forty years' time probably Registration would be required, if our Hospitals kept up the level, and Nurses made the best use of their time, but fortunately we have got it in thirty years. If it had not been for Mrs. Bedford Fenwick we would not have had Registration to-day. (Loud applause.)

Professor Glaister says that now that the Registration Bill is through that the ball is at your feet. Now, although that is so in a sense, you must remember that you are not at the end of things; you are just at the beginning; you must not stop there. Do not lose your individuality. Form your ideals and stick to them, and let them be noble ones. Do not allow the idea to get into your work that when the bell rings, you automatically stop work.

In the olden days we never thought about hours; we often were on duty night and day. The best, however, is not got out of nurses under these conditions—the patients suffer, your health suffers—therefore your hours must be regulated.

Above all, do not let yourselves become machines; keep your souls as well as your bodies in health. Keep yourselves interested, as the more interested you are the better qualified you are for your work. Unless every faculty is cultivated you will not make good nurses. The mental needs of your patients must be considered as well as the physical. When man is ill—I mean man in the large term—his sensitiveness is highly increased, and if you are tired mentally or physically, your patient will at once know.

My final word to you all is—Keep your Ideals.

A delightful informal Reception was then held when greetings were eagerly exchanged and handshakes of old friends, after years of separation, were heartily given. A long queue formed up at the "top table" to get the signature of "Rebecca Strong" on Menu cards. The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought a memorable and epoch-making evening to a close.

Auspice Cælo.

BRADFORD ROYAL INFIRMARY NURSES' LEAGUE.

At a meeting of the Council of the Bradford Royal Infirmary Nurses' League, held December 10th, the following Resolution was unanimously passed, copies of which were sent to the Minister of Health, the General Nursing Council, and the Hospitals Association:—

"That this meeting of the Council of the Bradford Royal Infirmary Nurses' League, with a membership of 200 certificated nurses, considers it essential to the professional status of the majority of 'Existing Nurses' that the word 'certificated' be entered on the State Register against the names of nurses holding certificates, and urges that the necessary steps be taken to make this possible."

M. B. VICKERS, *Hon. Secretary.*

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)