

took place a few short weeks ago, when we laid before our President the Annual Reports and discussed other matters connected with the Corporation: "Come and see me soon again, for I so like to hear all about the Association and what is happening at the Club. I have loved that Association." And looking back, we know that this was so, her interest in it was a living thing. We had barely taken possession of 194, Queen's Gate when we received intimation by telephone that Her Royal Highness was shortly to arrive and go over the Home, and those nurses who chanced to be in residence a few months ago, when the President last informally visited the Club, often refer with pleasure to that delightful afternoon when she came among them for the last time and talked so kindly and graciously to them all as we sat at tea in the drawing room at Queen's Gate. It was always a source of joy to Her Royal Highness that the Club had proved successful; she took a very personal interest in it from its commencement. Yet there was a note of prophetic sadness in some words she spoke then—"This is going to be my last piece of work for the Nurses."

And so it proved to be, and, curiously enough, the last business we discussed with Her Royal Highness was connected with the Club.

Quite a number of correspondents have inquired whether the nurses who were with Her Royal Highness were Members of the R.B.N.A.? All three were sent from the Association. Miss H. L. Hill went several weeks ago, and Miss A. Pearson and Miss G. M. Bevan went on duty some time later. A few

hours after all was over, Sir Stanley Hewett, Physician to the Princess, telephoned to say that he felt that the Committee of the Association should be informed that nothing could have exceeded the kindness of these nurses in every respect, and that he had never seen a patient nursed with greater efficiency and gentleness. Lord Dawson sent a message to the same effect, and, while we know that their words will give pleasure to every Member of the Corporation, we also realise that the three nurses regard themselves as having been very highly

privileged. One of them told us of a little incident which apparently touched her deeply, and occurred after the Royal patient was believed to have lost the power of speech. The nurse had just made some effort to add to the comfort of Her Royal Highness, when the Princess said, gently and falteringly, and when there must have been great difficulty in framing the words: "God bless you." The soft emphasis on the last word filled the little nurse's eyes with tears, and her voice trembled with quiet emotion as she related the incident to us.

But it is not only the Members of the R.B.N.A. who have lost

their best friend, although we shall be forgiven at this time if we strike overmuch the note of what her death means to the Association. Nurses all over the Empire are mourning to-day the loss of one whose constant thought was their welfare and professional advancement.

We might fittingly close with a quotation from the speech of Her Royal Highness when she opened the Club: "I need hardly say that you have my heartfelt good wishes for the suc-



THE LATE PRINCESS CHRISTIAN.

First President Royal British Nurses' Association,
1888-1923.

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