

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES.

LETTER FROM HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

In acknowledgment of the Message of Condolence agreed at the recent Meeting of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, upon the death of Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, a copy of which was forwarded through the Secretary of State for the Home Department to His Majesty the King, the following reply has been received:—

Received Very Graciously.

Home Office,
Whitehall, S.W. 1,
6th July, 1923.

MADAM,—I am directed by the Secretary of State to inform you that the message of condolence of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland upon the death of Her Royal Highness the Princess Christian has been laid before His Majesty, who was pleased to receive it very graciously.

I am,
Madam,
Your obedient Servant,
A. J. EAGLESTON.

To the Hon. Secretary,
The National Council of Trained Nurses
of Great Britain and Ireland,
431, Oxford-street, W. 1.

A Labour of Love.

Letter from Her Highness Princess Helena Victoria and Her Highness Princess Marie Louise.

Miss Isabel Macdonald, the Hon. Secretary of the National Council, has received the following letter:—

78, Pall Mall, S.W. 1,
July 3rd, 1923.

DEAR MISS MACDONALD,—

I am asked by their Highnesses Princess Helena Victoria and Princess Marie Louise to convey to you and to the members of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, their most sincere thanks for the message of sympathy you have sent them in their great sorrow.

As you yourself, and in fact all those connected with nursing, know so well, one of Her Royal Highness Princess Christian's chief considerations and care in her life work was for the welfare of the members of the Nursing Profession. It was a labour of love to which Her Royal Highness gave unstinting hours of time and thought. The Princesses ask me to express to you their great appreciation of the tribute you pay to Her Royal Highness's work for you all.

Yours truly,
ENID DU CANE,
Lady-in-Waiting.

THE STATE REGISTER "AT HOME."

Early in November, 1887, the first meeting—with Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in the Chair, on her right hand the late Miss Isla Stewart and on her left Miss Catherine Wood—was held at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W., to found a professional Society of Nurses to work for the organization of Trained Nursing through an Act of Parliament, providing for the higher education and State Registration of Nurses.

The history of the movement—and it is a history of a valiant struggle of right against might and wrong—is written in volume after volume of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and, let us hope, will be studied by all future nurse educators, as it was studied by Lavinia L. Dock, R.N., before she helped to compile Nursing History, from its earliest times.

20, Upper Wimpole Street, has been the scene during past years of many epoch-making events in nursing history, and not the least interesting was that of July 6th last, when pioneers and supporters of nursing organization met together to pay their respects to the State Register "At Home." There it was found, suitably bound in rose morocco and gold, reposing alone in the centre of a table, around which so many nurses from all over the world have taken counsel together. Whatever has been suffered in the past—of reaction, persecution, injustice and wrong—can be largely discounted now, when eye can see the tangible proof of success in the printed word. The State Register of Nurses has come to stay by Act of Parliament, and soon all the pigmies who opposed progressive reform—now unfortunately in power—will have passed away, leaving a great work accomplished, promoted and paid for by the pioneer nurses themselves.

Of these pioneers no one stands more firmly in her vigorous old age than Mrs. Strong, the *doyenne* in Britain of nursing reform, and her presence at the State Register "At Home" was a surprise and a delight to all her colleagues. After tea and chat, at the request of Mrs. Fenwick, Mrs. Strong spoke to the younger generation of nurses present, and her reminiscences of nursing conditions in Scotland fifty years ago, and the wonderful evolution of nursing there in recent years, was historically instructive; and, although modestly told, we all realised what a debt of gratitude the nurses of the world owe to Mrs. Strong for her creative faculties and splendid altruistic characteristics. Mrs. Strong's reminiscences were followed by the most up-to-date report of nursing educational progress in the United States of America,

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