

Before finishing I must say a few words on the benefit which is coming to the type of work I have now been engaged in for the past 18 years—Public Health—I often wonder how far, even someone so conversant with nursing affairs as Major Barnett is, is aware of the value of the work of School Nurses and Health Visitors. Infectious epidemics are terrible scourges, but since Public Health Nurses have been growing in numbers their evil careers have been cut short and their fatal qualities greatly diminished. I am authorised to convey the thanks of my 300 and over of such trained and registered Public Servants to Major Barnett for his splendid championship of their Cause, and I would add to this our appreciation of the years of thought and munificent expenditure of money and time by Dr. Bedford Fenwick in the long struggle for State Registration. His unselfish work has been done so quietly, and important interviews have necessarily been so little known that he has often been deprived of his due recognition.

Other voices than mine will praise our beloved President, who looks so wonderful to-night, that one gasps when one looks back over the long stretch of years culminating in this memorable occasion. Once more, thank you Major Barnett, Dr. Bedford Fenwick and Mrs. Fenwick.

The Toast Master.

Ladies and Gentlemen, "pray silence" for Miss A. M. Bushby, S.R.N., R.S.C.N., Member of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales:—

Miss A. M. Bushby, R.S.N., R.S.C.N.

Madam Chair, Major Barnett, Ladies and Gentlemen: You, Major Barnett, were a conjurer of no small means, when you lifted your wand, waved it over the lucky bag and drew forth the Nurses' Registration Bill, it was a great triumph—who knows if you had not performed this great feat, whether we might not still be waiting for Registration of Nurses, instead of its being an accomplished fact. I feel we all owe a great debt of gratitude to you for this generous act.

The Supplementary Part of the Register for Sick Children's Nurses I am most interested in. It seems very strange that nothing in a special way was done for sick children until about 100 years ago when the Waterloo Hospital for Children and Women was founded, then shortly followed Great Ormond Street, the Queen's, and the East London Hospitals for Children. The reason being I think that most of our large Institutions were founded by Monks or mere man; who did not give a thought to children, and did not provide any accommodation for them, and even to this day some Hospitals have no wards set apart for special treatment of children.

Strange as it may seem very few of our Hospitals were in the old days founded by women. This may I think be explained by the fact that women, especially married women, had little or no money, as the Married Women's Property Act was not passed until recent times. It was that great writer, Charles Dickens, the friend of children and the poor, who in his writings stirred up public opinion to the cry and needs of children.

I am sure as time goes on the Supplementary Part of the Register for Sick Children will develop and increase by leaps and bounds, as more and more will be done for children, and nurses will realise that special knowledge in this connection can only be obtained in Children's Hospitals. We are building up the future generation, and—who knows?—the child nursed to-day may be the Prime Minister of to-morrow.

Nurses will be proud of the fact that their names are enrolled on this Supplementary Register, and throughout their nursing career it will be a great asset to them.

The Toast Master.

Ladies and Gentlemen, "pray silence" for Miss Stewart Bryson, S.R.N., R.F.N., Past-President of the Fever Nurses' Association:—

Miss Stewart Bryson, S.R.N., R.F.N.

Madam Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is a great pleasure to be here to-night to take part in the presentation of the Register of Nurses for England and Wales to the champion of our Cause, Major Barnett.

Speaking from the point of view of the Fever Nurses I hope that in the near future Fever Training will be included in General Training, as it is such a very important branch of Medical Nursing, and a nurse cannot be said to be thoroughly trained without this experience.

There is therefore strong reason for including infectious nursing in a five years' course, and I trust this will come.

Now what I want to say most of all to-night is how indebted we are to Major Barnett for what he has done for the Nursing Profession, over and over again defending our interests in the House of Commons and still continues to do so; indeed, he is always on the spot at the right moment to fight for us.

I would also like to mention how very grateful we are to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick for her happy idea of entertaining Major Barnett this evening.

The Chairman here announced with great regret the absence of Miss Steuart Donaldson, President of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, Nurses' League, who had hoped to be present.

In her place Miss Isabel Macdonald, trained and certificated at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, would say a few words.

The Toast Master.

Ladies and Gentlemen, "pray silence" for Miss Isabel Macdonald, S.R.N., Secretary Royal British Nurses' Association.

Miss Isabel Macdonald, S.R.N.

Major Barnett, Madam Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen: In the absence of Miss Steuart Donaldson, I wish, on behalf of Scottish Nurses, to thank Major Barnett for all his great goodness to our profession. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has referred to the splendid way in which he kept his promise—an election promise, not made on his platforms, simply a promise made to a woman in the course of an election campaign—that won for us the Registration Acts. Major Barnett would not wish me to labour this point, but it is one we can appreciate, for there are two things the Scottish folk always keep, their promises and their halfpence. Here across the border we nurses have found a man who keeps his promises, and, when this long fight for professional organisation achieves its purpose, some of us may be able to keep our halfpence too. The Registration Act is a great step towards the aims of our pioneers in nursing organisation, how great a step perhaps only the perspective, that time brings, will show. Mrs. Fenwick referred to the pleasure it gave her to see so many beautiful white heads around these tables to-night, my neighbour on the left has reminded me, rather unkindly, I think, that I do not come into that, and thus she brings to me a certain reminder of the responsibility that is laid on the brown heads, the responsibility to keep burning the torch that you, Mrs. Fenwick, have lit, to develop and keep alive the impulse which it was your mission to bring into the profession of nursing.

It gives me very particular pleasure that we have here to-night a representative of a great Irish family, members of which have played no ignoble part in the story of our struggle; but it is not only because of the help that Lord Novar and the present Lord Dufferin have given to the State Registration movement that I am delighted to see Lady

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