

Hermione Blackwood here, but because of my first meeting with her sister, Lady Novar. This happened soon after I left hospital. I had undertaken to give a course of Lectures on Nursing in Fifeshire and was looking forward with an overwhelming sense of nervousness, to speaking to a very large audience in Kirkcaldy. Lady Novar, Lady Helen Ferguson she was then, was my Chairman, and I shall always remember with deep gratitude her great kindness which soon made me forget all my nervousness. It gives me pleasure that her sister should be here to-night when I speak, this time, to many whose names will go down in the history of our profession as a band of pioneers who accomplished much. Major Barnett, I am proud to offer to you the very sincere thanks of Scottish Nurses for your splendid help for our cause.

The Toast Master.

Ladies and Gentlemen, "pray silence" for Miss Margaret Huxley, R.G.N., President Irish Matrons' Association.

Miss Margaret Huxley, R.G.N.

Madam Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen: The Nurses' Registration Act has not been in operation long enough to show any marked change in the Nurses or in the Nursing affairs of the Irish Free State.

So far a State Examination has not been held, though the Hospitals are preparing their Probationer Nurses for it; using a Syllabus in most respects identical to that in use over here.

Existing Nurses have Registered in quite satisfactory numbers, I believe between three and four thousand up to the present time. Hospital Governors have been most willing to conform to the Regulation laid down in the Act—and the Government Departments demand that their Nursing appointments shall be filled by nurses whose names are on the Register (Applause).

This is all to the good and in my opinion can only make for betterment and efficiency, which will be more and more apparent as time goes on.

Those of us who have worked from the beginning of this movement, and remember even a few of the obstacles that have been encountered and overcome, feel more deeply grateful to Major Barnett than words can express for the splendid help he gave us, whereby we could attain our heart's desire, and we will always remember that but for the opportunity for the introduction of our Private Member's Bill we might still be struggling on, for, with our President, who, as we all know, is the embodiment of high ideals, courage and energy, we certainly should have gone on striving to gain the object which we set out to obtain.

The very thought of it makes one shiver, while now we can rest content with the word "accomplished" for our reward, while the younger generation carry on in the way we have laid down for them.

The Toast Master.

Ladies and Gentlemen, "pray silence" for Mr. Herbert Paterson, C.B.E., F.R.C.S.

Mr. Herbert Paterson, C.B.E., F.R.C.S.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: I have been asked to thank Major Barnett on behalf of the Medical Profession. I may say, however, that I like to regard the medical and nursing professions as one. They form two links in the chain which safeguards the nation's health, and if one link be broken the ship is wrecked. Without that loyal and efficient service so ungrudgingly given to the profession of medicine by nurses, our work would avail but little.

I am glad to be present this evening for four reasons:—First, on account of the admiration and regard I have for the nursing profession; secondly, because it is a great and unique occasion; thirdly, because I always regard Major Barnett as the Nurses' Friend, and whoever is a friend to

nurses I look on as a friend of my own, and lastly, but not least, because of the admiration I have for the man and his work in Parliament for the nursing profession. We are perhaps apt to forget that work for the nurses is work for the nation. A nation's wealth is its health, so whatever raises the status of the nursing profession and improves its efficiency is to the advantage of the State.

Nurses are indeed fortunate in having as their champion one who has such a knowledge of their needs, and one who has such sympathy with their aspirations and their ideals. In this respect he is as a shining light in a wilderness of ignorance. I am sure Major Barnett would be the first to admit that the inspiration of the Nurses' Registration Act was our Chairman of this evening, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, but doubtless reference will be made to the part she has played by others more eloquent than myself. I congratulate the Nursing Profession on having secured its birthright, although by many of them it is not realised what that birthright means. I congratulate you, Major Barnett, on seeing the fruits of your labours, and hope that you will be spared long to continue your labours in the Councils of the nations on behalf of the community and on behalf of the most gentle profession.

The Chairman.

The Chairman then rose and said: Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you the Toast of the Evening, Major R. W. Barnett, Member of Parliament.

The Toast Master.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Toast is Major R. W. Barnett, Member of Parliament.

The whole company then rose, and amidst loud applause, which resounded again and again through the room, the toast was drunk with musical honours.

THE REPLY.

The Toast Master.

Ladies and Gentlemen, "pray silence" for Major R. W. Barnett, M.P.

Major R. W. Barnett, M.P.

Major Barnett, who on rising to speak was received with prolonged applause, said: I do not know whether any of you have ever felt, in witnessing a theatrical representation, that the play was a good play, but that it was badly cast.

As your Guest of Honour here to-night, I have felt how very little praise is due to myself. It is really due to one who, more than thirty years ago, set before herself an ideal for the Nursing Profession, and fought to attain it, through good fortune and bad fortune, with that indomitable courage which does not know when it is beaten, and which consequently never is beaten. (Hear, hear.) Our Guest of Honour this evening ought to be our Chairman, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. You should congratulate her, not me, for she kept straight on to the goal before her, through occasional gleams of sunshine and success, but far oftener through disappointments and disillusionments which must have been heartbreaking to her and to the devoted band of workers who supported her.

It would be affectation to pretend that we are completely satisfied with the working of the Nurses' Registration Act; but we must console ourselves with the reflections that the things which call for criticism are the accidentals: we have gained the essentials. Yet I think that no one can have complete satisfaction in the administration of the Nurses' Registration Act so long as it involves, as it does at present, the exclusion from the General Nursing Council for England and Wales of the woman who inspired the movement for the Registration of Nurses, and by right of work and knowledge should have a place on the Council. I hope Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will go back to the General Nursing Council some day as its Chairman—(hear, hear),—but whether she does or

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