

of Nurses, or did nothing to promote it, until victory was inevitable, the majority of whom are exceeding ignorant of the spirit of the movement, and the reasons underlying the Sections of the Act. The attitude from which the Council conducts our affairs apparently minimises their importance.

Our generation has done its part, and may rest on its laurels, it is for the younger generation of nurses inspired with a sense of professional responsibility, to protect the rights we have won for them. I thank Mrs. Andrews for her kind words, and in conclusion desire to record our deep and reverent gratitude to the late Miss Isla Stewart for her lifelong devotion to the Registration Movement.

#### The Health of Miss Breay.

Miss Macdonald asked and received permission from the Chairman to propose one more toast—the health of Miss Breay. Words were drowned in a chorus of applause that followed the mention of Miss Breay's name, but one story we gathered from the speech, which caused considerable amusement: "One day I was teaching a tiny niece to spell out words. She loved to do that from any book or magazine she picked up, and THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING chanced to be one. We spent a good long time trying to satisfy her scholarly aspirations, and next day we had the following conversation: 'Auntie, teacher asked me to tell her what London is.' 'Well, dear, and what did you tell her?' 'It's the town where Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and the King live.'"

Well, a hundred years on, when nursing history is being written, perhaps very many professional nurses may think of London as the place where Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Miss Breay lived, and where the Registration Acts were won. We owe so much to Miss Breay for her splendid, never-failing loyalty and devotion.

The toast was received with musical honours. In thanking Miss Macdonald, and those present, for the very kind way in which they had received it, Miss Breay said: If I have been able to achieve anything for the good of our profession, it is because I have learnt the way from the dear Matron whose probationers felt for her an affectionate admiration which has only increased with time. May I remind you of the story of Good King Wenceslas and his Page. The Page achieved his purpose because

"In his Master's steps he trod  
Where the snow lay dinted."

In my association with Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's work that is the relative position.

At last farewells had to be spoken, and those present agreed that it had been a wonderful evening, the memory of which would be an abiding one.

#### THE PEOPLE'S LEAGUE OF HEALTH.

At a meeting convened by the People's League of Health, held at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., Dr. Stella Churchill, speaking of the care of the feet, said that for children to run about with their feet bare was not such a hardship as many supposed. It might be objected that it was dirty, but if playing grounds were provided in which children could run about with bare feet, their health would be improved. High heels produced lack of balance, and caused local and general troubles.

All the speakers, says *The Times*, insisted on the great importance of allowing children to have handkerchiefs. It was urged that the absence of handkerchiefs caused much illness, and meant the detention of patients in hospitals longer than was necessary, at far greater cost to the rate-payers than the cost of the handkerchiefs. It was stated that "sleepy sickness" had its home in the nose. It seemed debatable how it travelled to the brain, but it was noted that the epidemics of "sleepy sickness" of 1918 and 1924 followed epidemics of influenza.

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

### WEST LONDON HOSPITAL, HAMMERSMITH, W.

Wednesday, February 11th, when Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, attended by Miss Dorothy Yorke, visited the West London Hospital, Hammersmith, and opened a new wing, saw the fulfilment of the hopes of years.

Her Royal Highness was received at the main entrance of the hospital by the Chairman (Mr. Reginald E. Watson), the Dean (Sir Henry Simson), the Mayor of Hammersmith (Ald. Marshall Hays), and Sir William Bull. The Princess then proceeded to the Board Room, where a number of members of the Reception Committee were presented, as well as the Secretary of the hospital, Mr. H. A. Madge, and the Matron, Miss E. Cockayne, S.R.N.

The opening ceremony was held in the large out-patient hall, where a platform had been erected, and most tastefully decorated with bright flowering plants. Those present included the Dowager Duchess of Abercorn, Mrs. Stanley Baldwin, Lady Plender, the Mayoress of Hammersmith, and Lady Simson (Miss Lena Ashwell).

The Mayor of Hammersmith welcomed the Princess, and the Chairman, Mr. Reginald E. Watson, said that the day inaugurated a notable advance in the annals of the West London Hospital, and, by raising the number of beds from 160 to 220, placed it in the forefront of the secondary hospitals of London. He said, further, that he was in the happy position to announce that every farthing for the Extension, including its equipment, had been found, and they were able to ask Princess Mary to open it free of debt.

Their good friend, Mr. Dan Martin, had opened the Extension Fund with a gift of £20,000, and suggested they should find a similar sum which was done. He then asked whether that covered everything, and when he learnt that £3,200 was needed for the equipment of the wing, he at once sent a cheque for that amount.

A pleasing little ceremony was the presentation by the Dowager Countess of Ilchester to the Princess, on behalf of the Ladies Association, of a cheque for £1,100, for the endowment of the Princess Mary Bed in the Hull Martin Ward, enclosed in a model of the bed completely equipped, and mounted on an ebony stand.

The new Extensions include (a) the Paying Wing, (b) the Hull Martin Wards and Operation Theatres, and (c) the Marshall (Accident) Ward. In each case the Princess performed the opening ceremony by severing, with scissors, a white ribbon barrier.

In the Paying Wing, which was first visited, are 26 beds in 22 rooms, opening on to a wide corridor. The colouring throughout is extremely harmonious, with cream-coloured paint and brown woodwork, with which the furniture has been selected to tone. The bedsteads are readily movable and bedrests are attached at the head. Care has been taken to provide them with comfortable hair mattresses, and not only hair, but long hair, which makes just all the difference. An electric lamp is fixed over each bed. Noticeable are the upright taps fixed sufficiently high for a jug to be put underneath if needs be, a practical idea of the Matron, who also designed the charming polished oak dressing chests with oval moving mirror. All corners are rounded, and the drawers have wooden knobs, there are glass panels to the doors of each room furnished with a curtain, which can be drawn if desired.

The Hull Martin Wards, which are intended for cancer cases, are equipped in the most up-to-date manner. Powerful electric lights can be run along rods and located exactly where needed in the theatre. Oxygen can be automatically brought into the theatre through the floor, and there is a shoot for soiled dressings.

The Marshall Ward on the ground floor makes much needed additional provision for accident cases.

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