

Nursing Home, Liverpool, and formerly Member of the Staff of the Registered Nurses' Society, and Matron-in-Chief, under the British Committee of the French Red Cross, and the French Government, of the French Flag Nursing Corps during the Great War.

A Veteran Fellow.

MRS. REBECCA STRONG, trained at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, formerly Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, who had accepted the invitation of the Trustees to take a seat on the Council, was unfortunately unable to be present. The appointment of this forceful pioneer will, we feel sure, give general satisfaction.

A Glowing Bit of Colour.

The Vice-Presidents and Members of the Council, having been admitted, Miss Helen Pearse, on their behalf, presented to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick a lovely bouquet of crimson carnations, a glowing bit of colour which they thought would appeal to her colour-loving soul.

The Address of Dr. Fenwick as Trustee.

Dr. Fenwick then addressed the Council in the following words:—

"LADIES,—As you have undertaken and signed the Solemn Obligation which is to be required from all who enter The British College of Nurses, I would congratulate you on being admitted as Fellows (or as a Member) of an Institution which I venture to predict will, as time goes on, be widely recognised both by the Nursing Profession and by the public at large, as honourable, benevolent, and therefore worthy of high esteem. Honourable, because it is founded upon the great principles of Justice, Loyalty and Personal Altruism. Benevolent, because the Divine laws of Charity are involved in the special objects which the College proposes to carry out.

"To define these principles in further detail, I would say that this College has been founded, in the first place to obtain Justice for the sick of all classes in the community by continually raising and maintaining the highest standards of knowledge, efficiency, technical skill, personal devotion and loyalty on the part of trained Nurses; and Justice also to the Fellows and Members of this College by protecting them against the various professional and personal injuries to which Nurses have been exposed in the past; and especially by affording them, for the first time, the means of real self-government and of managing their own professional affairs, liberated by the first Endowment of the College and its self-supporting subscriptions from any undesirable outside influence or dictation.

"With such secure and broad foundations to build on, I venture to predict that, if the best trained Nurses are wise enough, during the Period of Grace, to enrol themselves in its ranks, The British College of Nurses will become one of the most influential, beneficial, and wealthy, professional Institutions in this country. And if that be so, it is quite certain that this College will by its example, lead in due course to the formation of similar Colleges, founded on the same principles, in many other parts of the civilised world."

Dr. Fenwick then made a statement as to the first work which the Trustees thought should be undertaken by the Council, and concluded by inviting those present to dine after the Meeting, at the Trocadero Restaurant,

as the guests of the Trustees, and expressed their hope that an Annual Dinner might be held each year after the Annual Meeting in July.

The Council having been inaugurated, Dr. Fenwick then retired, but before he did so Miss Pearse said that she was sure the Council would not wish Dr. Fenwick to leave this historic meeting, without an expression of their great indebtedness and gratitude to him for his self-sacrificing work for the Nursing Profession in the past, culminating in the active part he had taken in securing the wonderful Gift which was the occasion of that assembly.

In the course of his reply, Dr. Fenwick said that by the establishment of this self-governing College of Nurses, an institution would be at the service of Nurses free from the great danger of domination by those who were not Registered Members of the Nursing Profession.

A Pleasurable Duty.

Mrs. Fenwick from the Chair, then invited the Council as its first pleasurable duty to place on record a most heartfelt Vote of Thanks to the Donor of the munificent Gift of £100,000, with which the British College of Nurses had been founded, and to convey to the generous benefactor an expression of their gratitude. The proposition was enthusiastically carried with a rising vote.

Gifts to the College.

The pleasurable incidents were still incomplete, for Mrs. Bedford Fenwick announced her intention of presenting the College with the following Gifts:—

1. A beautiful box of the William and Mary period inlaid with birds, butterflies and foliage, which was on the table, to be used as a receptacle for the Bible and Prayer Book, which would be inscribed, on the fly leaves, with the signatures of the Hon. Officers, and the Members of the first Council, the first space being left for the signature of the Donor, in the hope that it would be inscribed in the future.

2. A complete file, from 1888 of the 73 volumes of THE NURSING RECORD and THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, containing the Editor's autograph, in which is recorded the evolution of modern Nursing for the past thirty-eight years, and the beautiful antique Sheraton Cabinet, in which these volumes have been preserved.

3. A complete file of the *Nurses' Journal*, the organ of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

4. A complete file of the *American Journal of Nursing* from 1900.

5. The Reports of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, now the National League of Nursing Education.

6. The Reports of the Meetings of the International Council of Nurses, and copies to date of the I.C.N.

These most valuable Gifts will make a fine nucleus for the Library of the College, as many of the volumes are now out of print.

Mrs. Fenwick also announced that Miss Breay would present the four volumes of "A History of Nursing," by Professor Adelaide Nutting, M.A., R.N., and Miss Lavinia L. Dock, R.N., and it was agreed that the distinguished authors should be invited to inscribe their names in the volumes.

The President then briefly addressed the Council. She said she knew it would be the wish of the members

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