

following members of the Council should form the Social and Benevolent Committee:—The President and Vice-Presidents, Miss Isabel Macdonald, Miss Cruickshank, and Miss Haswell. Miss Macdonald was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee.

A small Sub-Committee was elected to consider a code of Bye-Laws and Regulations, and to further consider the Seal, Diplomas and Robes.

Several interesting suggestions were put forward, and it was agreed that the personal interest in the work and welfare of their own College by the Fellows and Members would be warmly encouraged.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Council should be held in September.

The Meeting then terminated.

### ETHEL GORDON FENWICK, S.R.N.

President of the British College of Nurses.

#### AN APPRECIATION BY AN OLD PUPIL.

The announcement that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has been appointed by the Trustees President of the British College of Nurses, endowed with £100,000, will give confidence to thousands of nurses in the future of this new Institution, for they know well that throughout a strenuous life of endeavour and achievement she has kept constantly before her the organisation, the advancement, the honour and the dignity of the Nursing Profession, and that nurses not only of this generation but of generations to come owe her more than they can ever fully realise.

To her belongs the unique distinction of having evolved, initiated, and seen grow to fruition in the Nursing World two movements of world-wide extent—that for the organisation and standardisation of Nursing Education, and of the Registration of Nurses under State Authority; and that for the affiliation of self-governing National Associations of nurses throughout the world, including some 120,000 trained nurses, in the International Council of Nurses, now the Parliament of the nurses of the world. For the accomplishment of these high and difficult tasks nature endowed her with physical and mental gifts which command respect, confidence, admiration and affection.

Ethel Gordon Fenwick (*née* Manson) was born at Spynie House, near Elgin, in Morayshire, younger daughter of Dr. David Davidson Manson, a very versatile, public-spirited man. Her mother was a Palmer, of Thurnscoe Manor, Yorkshire, a very ancient family descended from John Palmer, of Marston, 1300 (of which the Selborne family is a younger branch), and quarters the fleur-de-lys of France by intermarriage with the Fauconberg family, one of whom married Mary Cromwell, daughter of the great Protector, of which the Countess of Yarmouth, Baroness Fauconberg in her own right, is now head of the family.

Mrs. Fenwick inherits her father's versatility of character, courage, idealism, dogged tenacity of purpose (real Yorkshire), combined with extraordinary elasticity of spirit which unite to form a character as elusive as quicksilver, yet as sure as it is sane.

Ethel Manson lost her father before she was a year old, and upon her mother's remarriage to Mr. George Storer, of Thoroton Hall, Notts—a well-known Member of Parliament—grew to womanhood in an atmosphere of cultured simplicity at the old Hall in the beautiful Vale of Belvoir, surrounded by lovely gardens set in spacious finely timbered meadowlands, and in close contact with nature—birds and beasts and humankind—the finest education in the world. Yet she was a child of destiny. Somewhere

a voice was calling—and at the age of twenty-one she went forth, never to return to a life of ease, to begin the strenuous public service which has claimed all her marvellous energy for close on half a century.

In 1878 Mrs. Fenwick entered the Children's Hospital, Nottingham, as a paying Probationer, for training, and then, being still too young for admission to any large London Training School, entered the Royal Infirmary, Manchester—a splendid school for clinical experience. She was, in 1879, appointed Sister of the Charlotte Ward at the London Hospital, and in less than two years had gained such a reputation as a practical administrator and disciplinarian that, in 1881, at the age of twenty-four, she was selected to be Matron and Superintendent of Nursing at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, from many able competitors, and so well did she organise its nursing school, doing a sixteen hours' day for months on end, that it speedily became recognised as the foremost Nursing School in the country.

Her marriage in 1887 to Dr. Bedford Fenwick, deeply as it was regretted by her pupils at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, as it deprived them of her brilliant and trusted leadership, proved, for them, a blessing in disguise, for from that day to the present Dr. Fenwick has supported her work for the evolution of the nursing profession, both by personal service, by most liberally financing her public work, and, at the present time, when he might reasonably withdraw from strenuous duty, he has accepted the onerous task of Trustee and Treasurer to the new British College of Nurses, for which he was largely instrumental in securing the munificent gift of £100,000.

It is impossible to enumerate, even briefly, in the space available, Mrs. Fenwick's numerous activities on behalf of nurses and the sick. The foundation of the British Nurses' Association in 1887 "To unite all British nurses in membership of a recognised profession, to provide for their registration . . . as evidence of their having received systematic training, and to associate them for their mutual help and protection and for the advancement in every way of their professional work," was the first attempt at organisation in this direction in this or any other country.

She established the Registered Nurses' Society in 1894 to secure to private nurse members of the Royal British Nurses' Association full remuneration for their work.

In 1892, as a member of the Women's Committee of the British Royal Commission for the World's Fair at Chicago, she twice in six months crossed the Atlantic; and as President of the British Nursing Section presented a wonderful show in the Woman's Building, for which she was awarded two Medals and Diplomas "for excellence of Scientific Exhibits." She was also the Delegate from the Royal British Nurses' Association to the Congress of Representative Women in Chicago in 1893, and there was entrusted by the late Mrs. May Wright Sewall (Founder of the International Council of Women), to carry an invitation to British Women to take part in the Council's organisation.

In 1897 Mrs. Fenwick took an active part in selecting nurses for the Plague, then epidemic in India; and the same year, as Joint Hon. Secretary and Superintendent of Nursing of the National Fund for the Greek Wounded in the Græco-Turkish War, selected a Corps of Nurses and proceeded to Greece as their Superintendent, where, by the request of the then Crown Princess of Greece, she acted as Inspector of Nursing at the *École Militaire* Hospital in Athens, and received the Distinguished Order and Diploma of the Greek Red Cross.

Her most important work for National Health has been that for the State Registration of Trained Nurses in Great Britain and Ireland (she drafted the first Nurses' Registration Bill in 1904), involving a continuous struggle for thirty-two years, before, under her leadership, Acts for the

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