

THE NURSES' BAZAAR.

When it was decided at the meeting of the Grand Council of the International Council of Nurses in Helsingfors last July that the establishment of a permanent Headquarters was desirable, did funds permit, and that a salaried Executive Secretary should be appointed, the delegates of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain undertook to report the proposal to their Council, but, on the proposition that the Annual Dues from each Active Member (affiliated National Council) of the Council should be five American cents *per capita*, or the equivalent in the currency of the country represented, as on January 1st of each year, claimed freedom for their National Council to raise its quota in the manner which appeared best to it.

The apportionment of Dues left the Council to be financed, practically, by the Nurses of Great Britain, Canada, and the United States of America, the Annual Dues for 1926 to be paid by the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain being estimated at £260.

This the Council decided to raise by means of a Bazaar, and at the same time to raise an Emergency Fund for the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, on July 15th and 16th at the Central Hall, Westminster, and a Committee was appointed to make the arrangements.

Her Royal Highness Princess Arthur of Connaught, S.R.N., R.R.C., graciously consented to open the Bazaar, and was received on her arrival at the Hall, accompanied by Miss Isabel Macdonald (Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association), by the President of the National Council, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, S.R.N., who offered for her acceptance a beautiful bouquet of pink roses; Miss H. L. Pearse, S.R.N. (Hon. Secretary), and Members of the Bazaar Committee, and Stall holders.

The Conference Hall in which the Bazaar was held presented a very charming appearance, the Stalls being uniformly draped in pale blue muslin which proved an effective background for the attractive articles on sale.

When Mrs. Fenwick invited the Princess to open the Bazaar, Her Royal Highness, in a graceful speech, heard throughout the Hall, said:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

It gives me much pleasure to be able to come here to-day to support the International Council of Nurses, and the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. I feel that this effort on the part of our British Nurses must have very far-reaching results in furthering the progress of nursing throughout the whole world.

It is a great joy to me, as it is to other British Nurses, to feel that this great International movement had its birth in England. It is now twenty-seven years since the International Council of Nurses was founded by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and to-day almost every Country in the world which has any recognised organisation is affiliated to it. I warmly congratulate our English and Scottish Nurses on the splendid effort they are making to-day to meet the financial responsibilities which they have taken towards the maintenance and further development of the International Council.

I am delighted to be able to tell you that the Queen has very kindly sent some gifts to be sold at the Bazaar, accompanied by her best wishes. This gracious act, will, I know, be deeply appreciated by everyone here to-day. It now gives me much pleasure to declare the Bazaar open, and I wish it every possible success.

The speech, and its reference to the Queen's Gifts, was received with much applause.

Mrs. Fenwick thanked Her Royal Highness for her appreciative speech, and asked her graciously to thank Her Majesty the Queen for the beautiful gifts which she had

sent to the Bazaar. The Council would, Mrs. Fenwick said, suitably acknowledge Her Majesty's sympathy and kindness. The majority of the Gifts were immediately sold to the great benefit of the Bazaar.

The Princess then visited the Stalls, making several purchases.

The Stalls.

On the platform at the far end of the Hall the Association of Hospital Matrons displayed tempting Home Produce, fruit, fresh vegetables, salads, in brown paper bags, generously filled to overflowing; also cakes, jams, newlaid eggs, and other tempting edibles.

Over the Stall a Union Jack and a White and a Red Ensign were effectively draped, and below was the Flower Stall of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, most tastefully arranged by Miss Alice Cattell, which not only gave distinction and beauty to the decorations, but also brought in a substantial sum to the coffers of the Bazaar. Immediately to the right was the Sweet Stall of the Fever Section of the R.N.P.C., organised by Miss A. S. Bryson, Miss S. A. Villiers and Miss M. Drakard, and then came the Antique Stall, arranged and presided over by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, assisted by Miss Beatrice Treasure and Miss Elsie Armstrong. Prominent upon this stall were the beautiful Chinese Bowl graciously sent by Her Majesty the Queen, a blue-and-white tea-pot and stand, and an Austrian cup and saucer, marked sold. Gifts on other stalls, sent by Her Majesty, which found a ready sale were a china basket of roses, two pairs of brocaded slippers, a mother-of-pearl fan, and a work basket.

On the Doll and Picture Stall, arranged by Miss Isabel Macdonald (Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association), was an entrancing collection of dolls, to which reference is made in the Supplement of the R.B.N.A. on page 183. Many of the clever water-colour sketches were by Miss Macdonald, who, in spite of a life busier than most, found time thus to make a substantial contribution to the bazaar.

In the centre of the Hall was the General Stall of the College of Nursing, Ltd., organised by Miss D. Coode, assisted by many willing helpers, which, as will be seen by the Statement of Accounts, was most successful in taking a large amount.

It is wonderful how popular a Jumble Stall always is, and that presided over by Miss H. L. Pearse and Miss A. Schuller did a thriving trade.

The Tea Stall, organised by Miss Carson Rae and Miss A. E. Hulme, for the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, was largely patronised not only by visitors to the Bazaar, but also by stall holders, a thoughtful policy which was reflected in the takings.

The Stall of the Registered Nurses' Society to which the members of the staff were invited to contribute an article to the value of 5s., under the expert management of Miss E. E. Fowler, made good to the extent of £20.

Special thanks are due to Miss Christian H. McAra of the Royal Infirmary Glasgow Nurses' League, who gave two days of a precious holiday to the prosaic but important work of selling tickets in the lobby, which she did with great efficiency.

Altogether the Balance Sheet presented by the Hon. Treasurer of the N.C.N. on July 26th (printed on page 178) showed when the Bazaar Sub-Committee met to receive a report, that the Receipts for the two days were £301 18s. 10d., and the expenses £32 6s. 6d., leaving the sum of £269 12s. 4d. available for the finances of the International and National Councils of Nurses.

The Committee authorised the Hon. Treasurer to send a cheque for £260 to the Treasurer of the International Council of Nurses in discharge of its obligations for 1926.

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