

entertained by past and present nurses for their training school could be found than in the letter he had received from Miss Williamson, President of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary Nurses' League, enclosing on behalf of the members a bank draft for £500, to be used by the managers in endowing a cot in the Infirmary. To the members of the League he tendered the most grateful thanks of the managers for this very graceful and useful gift.

We offer cordial congratulations to Nurse Mary Catherine Mackay, who, when the prizes were presented to final year nurses carried off Dr. Henderson's prize in medicine, Dr. McGregor's prize in surgery, the Matron's prize in hygiene and nursing, and the Gold Medal (91.5 per cent. marks). The silver medal was won by Nurse Ada Margaret Ellis (86.8 per cent. marks) and the bronze medal by Nurse Isabella Cameron Forrester (85 per cent. marks).

When the extension to the Nurses' Home was opened the architect, Mr. James Miller, presented a necklet to Mrs. Macfarlane, on behalf of the contractors, the surveyors and himself, and proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Macfarlane, a former nurse, who had completely furnished the nurses' guest room and to Mrs. Balmain, who had presented an easy chair for the recreation room.

Altogether the day was one long to be remembered in the annals of the nursing staff of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow.

According to the *Intransigent*, as reported in the *Daily Mail*, the Mayor of Le Creusot, the Internationalist, M. Paul Faure, has ordered the Rue Edith Cavell in Le Creusot to be re-named and the inscription describing the manner in which she met her death to be effaced.

The *Intransigent* says this action is "hateful, stupid, and cowardly," and remarks that even those who are not actuated by patriotism but who claim they are working for the betterment of humanity should impress on future generations the useless horror of such an act as the execution of Nurse Cavell.

#### THE FLYING AMBULANCE.

Developed during the later years of the World War, in the face of criticism and discouragement, the flying ambulance has, says the *Public Health Nurse*, already taken its place as one of the greatest aids in the saving of life, the lessening of the suffering of sick and wounded, and disaster relief.

Its peace-time use is being extended rapidly. For almost two years Sweden has operated a hospital ambulance service by airplane covering a region north of the Arctic Circle in Swedish Lapland. The daring of the pilots is as arresting as the success of this service. For the anti-aircraft guns and enemy airplanes of the war are substituted those enemies almost as deadly to the airman, ice, snow, fog, forest, jungle and uncharted ways.

Another proof of the value of the airplane in health work was the control of the influenza epidemic which threatened Fort Yukon, Alaska, and was aborted when a Red Cross public health nurse flew over impassable mountains with medical supplies.

From the ghastly days of lumbering, horse-drawn ambulances, through the era of the motor ambulance with its more humane methods to the flying airplane free from shock or vibration and saving precious hours, the advance is great.

### PRESENTATION OF THE REGISTER OF NURSES TO LORD AMPHILL, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

It was a happy thought of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses to express its debt of gratitude to Lord Amptill by asking him to accept a copy of the Register of Nurses, in recognition of his invaluable help for many years in the House of Lords towards its establishment.

A really delightful ceremony took place on Thursday, January 7th, when Lord Amptill met Members of the Central Committee, in the beautiful Board Room, at 431, Oxford Street, W., and was presented by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick with a copy of the Register, which was duly inscribed.

The room was looking Spring-like with bouquets of jonquils and mimosa in charming harmony with its green and white decorations, and lovely blue and white English pottery; and the "Old Guard" who had gathered to do honour to their erstwhile champion in the House of Lords were delighted once more to renew their association with Lord Amptill—so invariably kind and courteous.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick presided, with Lord Amptill on her right hand, and Mr. Herbert Paterson, C.B.E., and Miss Margaret Breay on her left.

#### MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK'S SPEECH.

In welcoming Lord Amptill, Mrs. Fenwick said:—

MY LORD,—Permit me to preface my short expression of thanks for the inestimable services you have rendered to the Profession of Nursing, by expressing to you the sincere gratification of those present at the honour you have conferred upon us, in accepting our invitation to be here to-day, to accept from the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses—of which you were for so many years the active and honoured Chairman—a copy of the Register of Nurses, which now contains upwards of 50,000 names, and which in its present admirable form, would never have been issued without your sympathetic statesmanship.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—In recording our gratitude to Lord Amptill, we must recall that for over 17 years he has acted as the Nurses' Champion in the House of Lords, so that it is only the "Old Guard" who remember the dramatic circumstances under which, in 1908, he first befriended trained nurses in that House.

At that date trained nurses had been organised for 21 years to obtain the standardization of Nursing Education, and the Registration of Trained Nurses under State Authority, and for all those years they had been strenuously opposed by the authorities of the Training Schools.

In the year 1897 the Central Hospital Council for London was formed, composed exclusively of some 30 hospital Chairmen and Governors, and members of their medical staffs—ostensibly for quite innocent purposes, but in reality to oppose the growing demand for State organization by Nurses.

Bills for the Registration of Nurses drafted by the Nurses' Organizations, the Society for the State Registration of Nurses, and the Royal British Nurses' Association, were before the House of Commons from 1904, and a Select Committee of the House had unanimously reported that "it is desirable that a Register of Nurses should be kept by a Central Body appointed by the State."

In 1908, without informing or consulting any of the Nurses' Organizations, the Central Hospital Council for London drafted a "Bill to provide for an Official Directory of Nurses," which was introduced into the House of Lords on its behalf by the late Lord Balfour of Burleigh, K.T., on March 18th of that year, the second reading being put down for April 2nd, thus giving the Nurses' Organizations

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