

and thus the world is the poorer. But those who bring Service will, in touch with humanity, escape from the prison of Self, into the world processes and, whether their names live or be forgotten, their Service will achieve its purpose and exert its influence on the future.

The conception of Service, must, of necessity, hold for *you* inspiration, when you reflect that it is in the great crises of life that the human race seeks your aid; not from the sunny places where happiness and success are shining do you hear the call, but it comes from the shadows to you, to lighten human suffering and human grief. And so it is no lowly thing, this Service, but springs from the most complete of all ethical pronouncements "Love thy neighbour as thyself" and heirs to the thrones of Kings have been proud to bear on their escutcheons the words "I Serve."

#### CHARITY.

Through Service you can bring into practical interpretation the third of your Watchwords—Charity. Charity that "is kind," and in a nurse, kindness is a virtue for which there is no substitute or equivalent value; the sick respond to it as flowers to the light. Let us, moreover, remember that if we are not to work in vain, we must "comprehend humanity and so work humanly" that "the man most man with tenderest human hands works best for man," and that we are told of the virtuous woman, whose price is above rubies, "in her tongue is the law of kindness."

Charity is a word of many meanings which each of us must interpret for herself, and of which the giving of alms forms but a small part. Greater than faith, greater than hope, kindness is the most potent force in the world. Let us cherish it, and, by disseminating it, help to lessen the misery and increase the happiness in the world. Charity is a diamond among words of many facets, and in one of these you may see the clear shining of that purity of mind which enables us to see good in others, to be as honourable to others in our thought as in our words.

#### HONOUR.

Fearlessness, truth, integrity, loyalty, these are some of the attributes of Honour that I would see associated with this College, living, as it were, through the corporate soul-force of its Members in a way that will raise its traditions high and make it "of good report." And through recognition of what honour stands for and through self-judgment of how far we put into practice our conception of honour, we may perhaps arrive at what one of the ancient philosophers describes as the greatest knowledge—Knowledge of oneself.

Briefly I have tried to give you some idea of what your Council had in mind when they chose for you these Watchwords. None has priority over the other, each is the complement of the other, and so have I woven this garland of Watchwords for you. On the Diplomas stand the names of many "witnesses," silent witnesses many of them now, but none the less vigilant. This crowded hall is evidence to-day that among the old and young of our Profession, there are those that have the inspiration, the vision, the imagination, to keep the garland fresh, who will interpret to future generations the significance of these Watchwords of our College,

by deeds inspired by Knowledge, fragrant with works of Kindness, glorious with the dignity of Service and unsullied, because in your Obligation, you have made your profession of a high sense of Honour.

#### IN CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, to turn to more material things, responsibility and power are within our grasp. In a few weeks we shall enter into possession of our beautiful Headquarters at 39, Portland Place. There Fellows and Members will be welcomed to enjoy comradeship, happy social intercourse, and be called upon for participation in the work. Beautiful gifts have already been showered upon us, gifts to be enjoyed by all—and we hope for more to come.

One last word of deep gratitude to the munificent Donor who has made these wonders possible. One and all come forward, prove your appreciation by lending a hand, build up your College, and your Profession on the sound basis of gratitude, self-respect, self-reliance and self-sacrifice.

God speed and Good Success.

#### SPEECH BY MRS. STRONG, F.B.C.N.

Mrs. Strong said that it was with diffidence she consented to speak at this solemn and responsible meeting, the result of many years of arduous labour, of which the present generation knew but little, and the generations to come would know less, for it was weary work wading through volumes of history to get at a few facts.

Great as was the work that had been accomplished in connection with the founding of the College it was by no means final; only the foundation-stone had been laid. Every Fellow and Member must take her share in building the superstructure. There was a long road before us, and we must expect it to have its rough and stony paths, as well as the pleasant vistas which would shine upon us from time to time.

There was, she said, little need for her to dwell upon the advantages of such a College as this, which offered to those who were ambitious opportunities of professional education beyond that which our hospitals were at present able to provide for in a general training. Those persons who had gone so far with their training as to enable them to register were only on the threshold of their career, and now had golden opportunities open to them if they wished to go deeper into the realms of learning.

They would now, she hoped, escape from the narrow bounds imposed upon them by one training school, and come out into the internationalism of view we must all take if we are to have unprejudiced minds enabling us to form well-balanced opinions.

Whenever a person began to think she (or he) had learnt all there was to be learnt in any one branch of learning, then began that deep slumber of ignorance of which Carlyle spoke, and she would get a rude awakening and find herself left behind on life's journey.

Mrs. Strong reminded those present that earnestness of purpose alone could not have founded this College without the needful endowment. This they owed to the generosity of their unknown friend; the co-trustee, Dr. Bedford, Fenwick was well versed in the technicalities connected with the founding of such a College, and with giving effect to the wish of the Donor that the College should be a self-governing body.

She was not unmindful of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick who had received this crowning gift of her life's work. It was largely due to her heroic stand for the State Registration of Nurses that this noble gift was made, and the request that she should be the first President. Long might she be spared

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