

gifts at the service of the Nursing Profession for so many years, and for her Address on the Watchwords of the College.

To Dr. Bedford Fenwick, who for forty years had supported the President in her work, and whose services to the Nursing Profession were incalculable, and who had in his speech that afternoon put into words for us the aims of the British College of Nurses and the work already accomplished by the Council during the year of its existence.

To Mrs. Strong for her wise and earnest counsel.

To Mrs. Lancelot Andrews for her most necessary exposition of Sound Economic Conditions as a Basis of Professional Life.

To Major Sir Richard Barnett, M.P., without whose help we could not have obtained the Nurses Registration Acts.

To Canon Donaldson for his presence, and for opening the day's proceedings with prayer, for without the Divine blessing all our efforts were vain.

Mrs. Berens Dowdeswell concluded by hoping that the walls of the College would one day be adorned with the portraits of the Donor—who she hoped would not always be anonymous—Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and Major Sir Richard Barnett.

Miss Mildred Heather-Bigg, R.R.C., M.B.C.N., said that she was indeed proud to be privileged to second the vote of thanks, so ably moved by Mrs. Berens Dowdeswell, and so enthusiastically endorsed by the Meeting. She felt, they all felt, that this was a great occasion, when the gratitude of the whole Nursing Profession was being offered to the munificent Donor of the British College of Nurses, who had transformed a dream into historic fact, high-reaching aims into all-embracing achievement.

The British College of Nurses would stand like a tower of strength, to defend nurses from all reactionary efforts to thrust them back into commercial slavery, or to rob them of self-government and self-determination.

But, when we most exulted in our newly-found freedom, we most inevitably recalled all that our inspiring President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, had done for us. Her steadfastness of purpose, in spite of bitter hostility, her intuitive prevision of the possibilities of the Nursing Profession, her continuing sacrifices, had to-day borne fruit in the magnificent gift that had made possible The British College of Nurses.

To many Reformers it was not given to share in the harvest of their endeavours, surely one sowed, another reaped. She congratulated, we all congratulated, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in being there that day to see the end crown her life-long work.

The Votes of Thanks having been enthusiastically carried, and acknowledged by the President, Mrs. Fenwick said that concluded the proceedings.

The meeting closed with the singing of "God Save the King," played by Mrs. Jessop, and with a feeling of the greatest thankfulness for a great occasion. Mrs. Fenwick expressed the hope that the next ceremony would be at our own Headquarters, which were at present in the workmen's hands, but she invited Members from a distance to meet her, and Members of the Council there next day to see the House.

Those present then by invitation of the President adjourned for tea, during which the happiest atmosphere of comradeship, enthusiasm and delight in the firm foundation of the Nurses own College prevailed.

We hope that many happy meetings will take place of Fellows and Members in the future, but none will be remembered with greater gladness than Diploma Day 1927.

THE CONVERSAZIONE.

It was a happy choice when the Council of the British College of Nurses arranged that the *Conversazione* which they gave to the Fellows and Members on Diploma Day should take place at the Club of the Royal British Nurses Association. Firstly the Secretary, Miss Isabel Macdonald is a member of the Council of the College and spared no pains to make the evening a success, to which the setting of the Club itself contributed in no small degree, for, inside and out, the "House Beautiful" had been undergoing thorough renovation. It is the pride of Miss Macdonald and the members to show how smart and sweet a Nurses' Club should be, and on April 29th there was practical demonstration of this.

The guests were received in the beautiful drawing-room by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, F.B.C.N., President of the College, and a Vice-Chairman of the Royal British Nurses Association. All were in happy and expectant mood. The whole day's proceedings had been delightful beyond expectation, and had not H.R.H. Princess Arthur of Connaught, S.R.N., Duchess of Fife, President of the Royal British Nurses Association, promised to honour the Reception with her presence, an honour particularly appreciated by the Fellows and Members, because she has shown her deep interest in Nursing, and her appreciation of its seriousness, by undergoing a training which qualifies her for admission to the State Register of Nurses, by which Her Royal Highness has gained the deep respect of Nurses throughout the Empire.

Soon the announcement was made that refreshments were served in the dining-room. And here again Miss Macdonald ably supported by her capable lieutenant, Miss Edith Dickie, trained in the Edinburgh School of Domestic Economy, had excelled herself, while Miss Beatrice Treasure, F.B.C.N., had charged herself with the floral decorations.

The tables were lovely with red Darwin tulips and graceful smilax, and the same colour pervaded the trifles, creams, and fruit salads abundantly provided, as well as tea and coffee, lemonade, sandwiches, cakes and ices without which no Nurses' Party would be quite complete.

The moment of the evening came when Princess Arthur arrived, gracious and charming. She was received by the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and attended throughout her visit by Miss Isabel Macdonald.

Mrs. Fenwick presented the Vice-Presidents and the Members of the Council, the youngest member of which, Miss Dorothy Graham, F.B.C.N., presented to her Royal Highness a lovely bouquet of roses and carnations.

The Princess gave great pleasure by requesting that Fellows and Members should be presented to her, especially mentioning "some of the older ones." We have since heard of the great pleasure this gracious and thoughtful action gave to many of those present.

The time passed all too quickly, and soon after the departure of the Princess, goodbyes were said, and tired but supremely happy and content, the Fellows and Members realised that the day had been a golden one, the memory of which would be cherished for the rest of their lives.

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