

I wish you all a very pleasant evening and one which you will all be glad to remember for years to come.

With hearty congratulations to yourself and all your fine band of fellow workers.

Yours sincerely,

AMPTHILL.

"Miss Cochrane Matron, of Charing Cross Hospital, the only member of my Council absent from this festive board sends us a message of greeting, she wishes us a very happy time, sincerely regretting her inability to be present at the Annual Dinner of the College."

SUCCESS TO THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES COUPLED WITH THE NAME OF THE PRESIDENT.

The toast of the evening, "Success to the British College of Nurses, coupled with the name of the President," was moved by Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, F.B.C.N., with special reference to

The Aims and Objects of the College and its First Year's Work.

In proposing the toast of the evening Mrs. Lancelot Andrews said:—

The difficulty of my task is obvious, and the honour needs no explanation. There is so much to say, and so little time in which to say it. The epoch-making gift of £100,000 marks a new era. Never before have the founders of a Nurses' Association been free from financial anxiety in the initial stages, free to expand without dread of curtailment, and nurses must respond and be prepared to continue on the same basis by the payment of an adequate annual subscription in order to maintain their College self-supporting and self-respecting.

It is incredible, but true, that the attitude of the public, though kindly and benevolent, is different to that towards other professional persons. We do not hear of "the poor doctors" but frequently of "the poor nurses." That is no longer necessary, but even £5,000 a year is not inexhaustible. Is it too much to ask that the nurses of to-day, many of whom have done nothing to obtain the basic benefits they enjoy as members of a legalised profession should continue the work initiated and brought to success by the few, accept the responsibilities of to-day and carry on for the nurses of the future?

The objects of the British College of Nurses are anything that tends to the more efficient service of the sick, and to better the conditions of its Fellows and Members, and are (a) Educational, (b) Benevolent, (c) Legal Protection.

In regard to Education other professions are not satisfied with a pass degree—for which the State certificate is the equivalent—for the higher posts; thus in the teaching profession a candidate for the position of Head Master would have little chance of obtaining it unless he held an Honours Degree. We hope and believe that in the future something more than the State certificate will be required of candidates for educational posts in the Nursing world, and that the Diploma of the British College of Nurses will be regarded as the equivalent of an Honours Certificate.

It is very desirable that education should include wider activities in order to produce a good citizen as well as a good nurse, and a Sub-Committee of the College is now at work on the question of Nursing Education. After dealing with the Benevolent Aims of the College regarding Pensions, Grants and Loans, and with the provision of legal protection for Fellows and Members in approved cases, and remarking that the medical profession has found it necessary to have two societies to deal with their legal protection, Mrs. Andrews went on to say that more than this has been accomplished in the past year. Long and careful

consideration has been given by the Council to the Constitution and Bye-Laws adopted at the Annual Meeting that afternoon. THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING had been adopted as the official organ, and included in the annual subscription, and, lastly, after a long and arduous search suitable Headquarters have been found by Dr. Bedford Fenwick in a central position (39, Portland Place, W.), of structural soundness and large enough to admit of expansion.

The College, concluded Mrs. Andrews, is fortunate in its Treasurer, a rare combination of medical qualifications, sound business knowledge and a quiet determination to get what he wants.

The interior of the House is full of dignity and artistic beauty, and it stands as a monument to the master minds of Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

I have not exhausted the list of what has been achieved in the first year, but it has not been wasted.

The donor's wonderful and generous gift, united with the courage, faith and sense of vision of Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has resulted in the foundation of our organised professional body, The British College of Nurses, the Fellows and Members of which are inspired by the watchwords of the College—Knowledge, Service, Charity, Honour—a combination which ensures success.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I GIVE YOU THE TOAST: "SUCCESS TO THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES COUPLED WITH THE NAME OF THE PRESIDENT."

The Value of a Defined Theoretical Curriculum upon which Practical Nursing should be Based.

Dr. Graham Little, Member of Parliament for the University of London, the next speaker, said:

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a very real pleasure to me to have been selected to support the Toast "Success to the British College of Nurses," whose hospitality we are enjoying this evening.

I am, alas, old enough to be able to compare conditions as they were thirty years ago, when I qualified, with the conditions at present, and the revolution which has taken place in nursing is even more remarkable than the revolution which has taken place in Medicine. It is common knowledge that the group of ladies now constituting this College of Nurses have taken the lion's share in bringing about this improvement. Looking at the list of your Council one is struck by the observation that your College is controlled entirely by professional women. I hope that the exclusion of males is not motivated by any element of sex antagonism, of which we hear so much nowadays. I think you have been very wise to make your Council the strictly professional body which it is, and that you have been especially wise to avoid the amateur lady-bountiful who figures so largely in rival associations. I think that the solid success which your College has achieved rests very largely upon the importance which it has always attached to a wide theoretical education as a basis upon which to build up the practice of nursing. Even as recently as thirty years ago the nursing staff of hospitals, including some of the best London hospitals, was largely recruited from what might be described as an "upper domestic servant type of woman," many of whom became quite good, practical nurses who could follow rule-of-thumb methods, but who could not appreciate the reasons for doing what they did.

All this position is now completely changed. The hospital nurse of to-day is almost uniformly a gentlewoman of refinement and culture, and the profession has been able to attract some of the very best of the educated women of our time. I am a strong upholder of the principle of registration in all the professions; I have taken some share in promoting that principle in the House of Commons in

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)