

community had not yet learnt their responsibility towards the less fortunate.

Then came the Crimean War and with it the Lady with the Lamp bringing the dawn of a new epoch in Nursing History. I would emphasise the fact that we reverence the memory of Florence Nightingale, not only for her magnificent work in the Crimea, but for the knowledge, the fine intellect and the untiring energy which she brought to the development of the higher training of nurses, to a more efficient system of preventive work, to the improvement of Army hygiene and many other aspects of National work, more or less related to nursing. But there was yet another impulse, towards the epoch of which many of us here may be said to have seen the passing. It is easy to see errors on the surface of things, but it is not given to everyone to dig down into the depths of the commonplace and to bring up the truth. A great writer of English classics did that, so far as nursing is concerned, and he dressed his truth up as a curiously fascinating loveable little figure who nursed, not in accordance with the tenets of Florence Nightingale, or of any modern hospital school, but just as she happened to be "disposed," and thus Charles Dickens presented "the truth" to the women of England, and thereby played his part in influencing at least one epoch in nursing history.

Then came another epoch maker, one who placed on her standard a three-fold message—Organisation, Legal Status, Higher Education. A few days ago when I mentioned cursorily some of the references under the subject of these remarks, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said: "Oh no, you're not to speak of me," but I am sure that, were I to obey her, you would say that my speech had proved to be "a Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark." The first part of her three-fold impulse took root when the first organisation of nurses was founded in the house of Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in 1887; the second aim was achieved, so far as our own country is concerned, when the Nursing Acts were placed on the Statute Book in 1919, long after other countries and Dominions had glimpsed the message on the Standard and established Acts for the State Registration of Nurses; now we congratulate Mrs. Fenwick on seeing the last part of her impulse interpreted in this new movement—a College of Nurses analogous to the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons in the Medical Profession. When those three things—Organisation, Legal Status and Education—take root in a profession a very strange and a very wonderful development takes place. I am speaking literally—not figuratively—when I say that a new entity—a new being—is created, one that we speak of, in common parlance, as the "soul" or "spirit" of the profession. We cannot yet visualise what will be the ultimate development in its entirety of this new College, for that depends upon the strength of thought, feeling and will that the nurses can develop in this "Spirit" of Nursing which we all have our share in creating. But as, in a way, representing the first organisation of nurses, the Royal British Nurses' Association (also founded by Mrs. Fenwick), I would offer to the newest organisation success to all its aspirations.

In reply to the Toast the Chairman said:—

"I am greatly honoured that my name should be associated with the Toast of the British College of Nurses. It is now twenty-six years since I proposed the establishment of such a College, and when one's dreams materialise after hope deferred, it is cause for rejoicing and thankfulness. In this connection I desire to associate the members of my Council, who one and all have worked so arduously and harmoniously for the success of the College.

"Mrs. Andrews with her usual lucidity has in happy

phraseology placed before you the aims and objects of our College and the extent of its first year's work. The work has been strenuous but congenial to myself and to the Council: and, at our afternoon's Meeting, the Fellows and Members expressed their warm appreciation of what had been accomplished.

"I have listened with special interest and appreciation to Dr. Graham Little's sympathetic words on the value of a defined theoretical curriculum upon which practical nursing should be based. In working to obtain the passage of the Nurses' Registration Acts our object was two-fold: (1) To raise the standard of Nursing Education through the standardisation of the theoretical and practical training of nurses, and (2) the Registration under Statutory Authority of those who attained that Standard.

"The sympathy with our aims of so competent an authority on medical education as Dr. Graham Little is therefore of special value to us in relation to Nursing Education.

"Sir Robert Armstrong Jones, in his illuminating speech on psychological nursing, has dealt with a subject which is increasingly engaging attention at this present time. The value of an elementary knowledge of psychological nursing for all nurses, whether or not they intend to eventually specialise in this branch of nursing is indisputable. Nurses cannot be wholly ignorant of this question without detriment to their general efficiency, for an acquaintance with it will enable them to deal more effectively with many patients who do not come under the charge of nurses trained in the care of patients suffering from mental diseases.

"Miss Isabel Macdonald has referred to epoch making events in nursing history. Her subject is happily chosen, and I should like to take this opportunity of impressing upon those interested in our work the extreme importance of acquainting themselves with the history of our profession.

"In connection with this Toast may I congratulate the explorers.

"What gives me the deepest satisfaction when I survey this gathering—is the knowledge that the explorers have arrived.

"The instinct of the explorer is seldom for material things—in blazing trails he is seeking light, space, freedom from restrictive convention, power to grow, ultimate order.

"To be born with the instinct and vision of the true explorer is to be endowed with forces calculated, in time, to discover all the secrets of the universe for the uplift of mankind.

"Nursing has through the centuries played no mean part in the solace of the explorer—saints and queens as servitors have joined the happy band—and the genius of Florence Nightingale evolved Nursing Law. Those of us who have followed on and blazed the Registration Trail, have claimed and secured power of order out of chaos—we have survived, and through the Nursing Acts our Profession now stands upright on legal status.

"The future as ever will be influenced by the few—those untiring and elusive spirits who move obstructing mountains—powers and potentates—and gaily roll them into the abyss.

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