

## THE ANNUAL DINNER.

The second Annual Dinner of the British College of Nurses was held on Tuesday, July 10th, in the St. James's Room, at the Hotel Metropole, London, S.W.1, and was unanimously acclaimed a most inspiring occasion.

Last year the College entertained distinguished members of the Medical Profession and the Health Services. This year the Guests of Honour were High Commissioners and Agents-General of the Dominions of the Empire.

The guests included Sir William Allardyce, G.C.M.G., ex-Governor of Newfoundland, and Lady Allardyce; Dr. Helen MacMurchy (representing the High Commissioner of Canada); Mr. R. Percival, Assistant to the Agent-General for Ontario in the British Isles; the Honble. J. Huxham (Agent General for Queensland); Sir F. Newton, K.C.M.G., C.V.O. (High Commissioner for Southern Rhodesia); Mr. R. E. Montgomery, Assistant Secretary to the High Commissioner for India; Mr. W. C. Bottomley, C.B., C.M.G., O.B.E. (Colonial Office), and Mr. Frank Soutar (Chairman of the British Empire Union).

The unavoidable absence of Sir George Fuller, K.C.M.G. (New South Wales), was greatly deplored.

Other invited guests were: Miss Cruickshank, C.B.E., R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service, and Miss A. Cameron, O.B.E., R.R.C., late Principal Matron; Miss E. A. Conyers, C.B.E., R.R.C., formerly Matron-in-Chief, Australian Nursing Service, Australian Imperial Force; the Lady Hermione Blackwood, Mrs. Alec Tweedie, Mrs. Willoughby Hodgson, Dr. Charlesworth (formerly Physician to His Majesty's Agency in Zanzibar), Miss Fulford (Chairman of the Fulham Board of Guardians), and many other notable persons.

Old acquaintances were renewed, and new ones made, as the Reception Room filled with Guests, Fellows, and Members who were received by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, F.B.C.N., President, carrying a lovely shower bouquet of pink carnations, presented by the Council of the College. All were charmingly gowned, and a happy and appreciative company assembled for dinner, in the St. James's Room, with Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in the chair, when the Toast Master announced that dinner was served.

The tables were charmingly decorated with carnations, and grace having been said by the Rev. George Berens Dowdeswell, those present settled down to the business of the evening, apparently finding themselves well content with their surroundings and neighbours.

### Opening Remarks of the President.

After the Loyal Toasts of "The King" and "The Queen, the Prince of Wales, and the Royal Family" had been duly honoured the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, F.B.C.N., who on rising was greeted with prolonged applause, said:—

"Before calling upon Miss Isabel Macdonald to propose the Toast of the evening

#### "Success to Imperial Standards of Health in Great Britain and the Dominions,"

may I be permitted to say for the information of our Guests, that the British College of Nurses was founded two years ago with an endowment of £100,000 by an anonymous donor, to be formed of, and governed by, Registered Members of the Nursing profession. It is most inspiring to find anyone with such confidence in the ability and integrity of the Nursing Profession as to be willing to hand over this large sum of money to be administered by the nurses themselves, and the greatest compliment ever paid to it. (Applause.)

The Constitution of the British College of Nurses has been drafted on the principle that it is to be British in reality as well as in name and already we number Fellows and Members from every constituent British Dominion,

and from our great Indian Empire, inspired by the policy of reciprocity of knowledge.

The founders of this Institution having faith in British qualities—in the valour—the staying power—the sympathy with humanity—which are the chief characteristics of our people, and which have evolved the best type of nurse throughout the world, are anxious to forge strong links of comradeship between the nurses of the Homeland and the Dominions.

It is for the recognition of the value of Nursing Service in promoting the uprising standards of national health, that the Members of this College desire to enlist the powerful support of the Governors, and Administrators, of the great Dominions and Crown Colonies, who have it within their power to enforce laws of health—and thus to secure a high degree of happiness for the people.

Preventive public health nursing—the mother and her babe as the objects of chivalrous devotion—the nurture of the school child—straight talks with adolescents—and the highly skilled care of the sick—no Government which disregards these duties can maintain front rank as administrators.

One item of our policy is to place, without reservation, the knowledge of this expert body at the disposal of organisations, and Government Departments, responsible for the health of the people, and incidentally I may remark that we have as yet no official Nursing Department established either at the Ministry of Health or the Colonial Office.

The British College of Nurses is all out to play a spirited part in this campaign of attaining and maintaining imperial standards of health throughout the British Empire, and we invite you—our honoured guests from Overseas—to give us every opportunity of so doing.

I now call on Miss Isabel Macdonald to propose the Toast of the evening"

### The Value of Nursing Service.

MISS ISABEL MACDONALD, F.B.C.N., and a Member of the Council of the College said:—

MADAM PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—I feel that a great weight of responsibility rests on me to-night in proposing this toast "Success to Imperial Standards of Health in Great Britain and the Dominions." Eloquence has never been one of the gifts of my race, and a Scotsman is usually regarded as being frugal of his words, as he is supposed to be of his sixpences. I have, however, one qualification for proposing this toast in that I yield to no one in my admiration for our great Dominions, in my admiration for the people there, and above all in my admiration for my colleagues the Nurses overseas; I venture to say that they have played no unworthy part in the great drama of colonization.

In inaugurating Foundations such as this, the British College of Nurses, it is customary to set down in speech, or in writing the ideals which people who are responsible for the movement would see followed. We read or hear what they say and so acquire certain concepts, but concepts are, after all, very abstract things and so it has become a practice, in connection with all such Foundations, to set up, as it were, landmarks, pictures in time, to shed a light on the path and to indicate in a more imaginative, and therefore often more effective way than by mere words, the lines upon which it is desired that future developments should proceed. And from this aspect it is our hope that Nurses of later generations and Nurses overseas to-day will see in our "Dominions Dinner" an indication that we do not wish the College to be a mere insular affair but we would have its influence, and above all its opportunities, reach to every unit of an Empire which encircles the world. I am one of those people who like to regard the British Empire as a great family—a family whose

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)