

relationships have no parallel in all history. In it, as in every other large family, there must sometimes be disputes, arguments, competition, perhaps quarrels too, but kept in moderation, these are healthy rather than otherwise. In every large family too, there are those who have reached years of maturity who have grown strong and are able to help the weak and then there are too the "littlest ones." As our President has told you, we have Members in all parts of our Dominions—in the great developed countries and in the small, where nursing organization, like everything else, is in its infancy and the fact that nurses, from every part of the Empire, have joined such an organization is evidence to us that everywhere, throughout the Empire, there are those who see visions and dream dreams for their profession. It may be that many of these dreams will not be realised until we are gathered to our respective "Caves of Machpelah"; where pioneer movements are concerned, this kind of thing is very frequently the case.

A great educationist of modern times, a great philosopher, Dr. Steiner, has pointed to the fact that "the light is not made for the eye, but the eye is made for the light" and it is from this point of view that I like to regard the British College of Nurses. From the time, when Florence Nightingale first gave her impulse to nursing education and onwards, a great light of knowledge has arisen in the profession; the establishment of Registration Acts in so many units of the Empire must of necessity produce ever a wider and more uniform knowledge of nursing. As this light of nursing grows greater it is just a consequential development that, in the nursing organism, eyes such as this should appear—colleges, centres for education—I hope there will be many such—where we can focus rays of knowledge from all quarters and develop still further the value of the profession to the Empire. In this connection I would raise one point in the hope that we shall have the sympathy of the Representatives of the Dominions, who are with us to-night. I would ask them to use their influence, so that when posts calling for administrative ability and expert knowledge in Nursing and Public Health, are vacant these may be filled by people who are qualified for the work, and that nurses be not handicapped by having in direct authority over them, people who hold no nursing qualifications whatever. It is from the "littlest ones" that the calls for help in this connection have come to the British College of Nurses, but England herself has need to "set her house in order" in this respect, and perhaps some of our larger

colonies as well. In this as in all our efforts to add to the value of the Nursing Services to the Empire I feel we shall have the sympathy of our guests to-night. Indeed, and I say it with all due respect, I think the representatives of our Great Dominions, here in London, must in many ways, of necessity, be rather like the Nurses! They must be generous, large hearted, must be optimists and able to explain away difficulties, and above all, they, like the Nurses, stand ever at the open door of service. That is why we appeal to them to use their influence that whenever possible, those with expert knowledge and professional qualifications for nursing administration, shall direct the nursing services and so enhance the practical

value of them to the Empire.

I have much pleasure in proposing the Toast "Success to Imperial Standards of Health in Great Britain and the Dominions."

The Chairman then called upon the Guests of Honour of the evening to speak to the Toast for the Dominions of the Empire.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

LADY ALLARDYCE, in a charming and witty speech, said that the work she loved best overseas was that of the splendid Nurses. She loved the Nurses under the sun in Australia, and in the frozen lonely spaces of Newfoundland. In both they were always cheery and bright.

Some people had a curious idea of what was entailed in nursing, and thought that if a girl was not clever to be a stenographer, nursing was a suitable occupation for her.

She explained that she was speaking this evening because when the invitation came for the dinner Sir William Allardyce told her she must be the speaker, not he, as nursing was her job.

She was quite pleased to have the opportunity of speaking to so many Matrons. Once she was a V.A.D., under their authority (laughter).

Lady Allardyce made an appeal for nurses for the Newfoundland Outpost Nursing and Industrial Association, known for short as "Nonia," so that the isolated fisher folk, whose wives had babies every year, might have new ideals of health and standards of living, and leadership in attaining them, and the means whereby they could attain such help, so guarding self reliance, and gaining confidence and hope.

There are only, she said, 260,000 people in Newfoundland, not more than the people of Devon and Somerset, and the women have no help.

His Excellency opened a hospital there where the Matron was a disciple of Sir Wilfred Grenfell, who has done such wonderful medical work in Labrador, and she urged her if ever she had the opportunity to "go and hear



Photo: Hay Wrightson.]

[41, New Bond Street, W.1

LADY ALLARDYCE.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)