

THE RETIREMENT OF SIR RICHARD BARNETT, M.P., AT THE GENERAL ELECTION.

At a very largely attended concert, organised in support of the South-West St. Pancras Conservative and Unionist Association, which was held in the Public Hall, Prince of Wales Road, N.W., on November 26th, Major Sir Richard Barnett announced to his constituency his decision not to seek re-election as Member for the Division. Sir Richard said that he had reached this decision with great reluctance and after much consideration and re-consideration. He introduced to his supporters the prospective candidate for South-West St. Pancras, Mr. W. P. Spens, O.B.E., K.C., and the latter, in replying to some kind remarks made by Sir Richard Barnett in this introduction, said that he (Mr. Spens) would find it no easy matter to follow such a man and to carry the Conservative flag to victory as Sir Richard had done, whenever he contested the seat. No M.P., said Mr. Spens, had a finer Parliamentary record than Sir Richard Barnett, no man had served his country and his constituency more disinterestedly.

There are many besides his supporters in South-West St. Pancras who will re-echo these remarks and none with greater sympathy and feelings of gratitude than Registered Nurses; they are not likely to forget the services rendered to their profession by the gallant Member for South-West St. Pancras in 1919, services which will have a far-reaching effect on the health of the people, and on the professional status of a section of the world's workers whose qualifications are only won after severe effort and years of strenuous training. The passage of the Nurses' Acts was an epoch-making event in the evolution of nursing, how epoch-making will only be known in the perspective which history in time will supply. But when the time does come, when other generations of nurses are tracing the vicissitudes of the Registration Movement in the volumes of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, there will be many who will be thankful that the pioneers of that movement found in the House of Commons such a splendid champion of their cause, such a sympathetic representative of their aspirations to improve their profession, as Major Sir Richard Barnett.

We offer to Sir Richard Barnett our earnest wishes that he may enjoy the added leisure the relinquishment of his Parliamentary duties must bring, and we assure him that we shall ever hold in remembrance our debt to him and the unselfish and splendid encouragement he gave to the Nursing Service when opportunity offered, and how, when in 1919, he won the place in the ballot in the House of Commons which he had promised, conditionally, to utilise to bring in the Nurses' Registration Bill, he kept his pledge to them in spite of efforts to persuade him that other legislation was of more vital importance.

But where will nurses find such another champion in the House of Commons? It is a curious anomaly that the women Members do not understand their problems and for the most part do not care to do so. Until, therefore, a Registered Nurse is elected to Parliament we must seek again "a very parfait knight."

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

The twenty-seventh Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, November 24th, at 2 p.m.

Miss M. Breay, Vice-President, was in the Chair, the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, being again regrettably absent owing to her continued illness.

The following Members of the Council were present:

Miss S. Villiers, Vice-President; Miss M. G. Allbutt, Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss D. K. Graham, Miss I. Macdonald, Fellows; and Miss E. J. Haswell and Miss K. Latham, R.R.C., Members.

Prayers having been read by the Secretary, Miss G. R. Hale, R.R.C., the Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed.

Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

The Chairman reported that the Lectures on Gynaecology, by Dr. Gertrude Dearnley, had now terminated, and they had proved most interesting.

The Lecture on the Equal Franchise Act, by Mrs. Blanco-White, was given on November 20th, and those who attended showed a lively interest in it.

The first Lecture on Encephalitis Lethargica had been given by Dr. Worster Drought, and the two succeeding ones were looked forward to with pleasure.

It was reported that Miss M. G. Allbutt had kindly consented to be nominated as a Delegate to the Grand Council of the National Council of Nurses in the place of Miss A. Stewart Bryson, who had been appointed a Delegate on that Council for the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association.

Correspondence.

The correspondence included the following letters:—

1. A letter from Miss Jessie Davies, Matron of Bradford Royal Infirmary, kindly saying she was organising a Social Meeting of Fellows, Members and their friends for December 1st.

2. A letter from a Fellow of the College relative to Legal Protection for Superintendents of Nursing Homes.

3. From the Marchesa di Targiani Giunti in appreciation of the report of the International Congress on Tuberculosis in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

4. From Miss C. Newsome:—"Many thanks for the Badge, which I received quite safely this morning. I like the design very much indeed, and am highly delighted with it. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking you for so kindly showing me round the College during my visit to London, it is a College anyone may be proud of; both my Sister and myself were very pleased and interested in all we saw."

5. From Miss Tryphena A. Turner:—"Thank you so much for my Diploma. I am very proud to be a Foundation Fellow of the College, and will do my utmost to live up to the high aims of the College, and to enrol Members from amongst my friends. Wishing the College every success."

6. From Miss E. E. Williams, Kentucky:—"I apologise for delay in acknowledging receipt of the beautiful Diploma. It came while I was away on holiday. The design is beautiful, and I especially like the names of the Pioneers of Nursing on the scroll. I shall do every-

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