

## DUTCH NURSES VISIT ENGLAND.

### HOW BRITISH NURSES WELCOME THEIR COLLEAGUES FROM ABROAD.

For some short time, we had been looking forward to a visit from a number of nurses from Holland, and it was with great pleasure that we received notification that they would reach London on the morning of Sunday, April 6th. Punctually to the time at which their train was booked to arrive, Miss Liddiatt (Chief Rambler) was at Victoria Station with her charabanc. Very soon, all the party were stowed away inside this, and before long they had turned into Queen's Gate, where, Miss Liddiatt informs us, they saw with the greatest delight the Dutch and British flags flying together from the Royal British Nurses' Association's Headquarters; throughout the whole of the visit the flags were hoisted from sunrise to sunset.

As soon as the charabanc was in sight, the Dutch national anthem was played at the open window on our large gramophone, and continued while Dutch and British

and were to be seen collecting guests from the Netherlands to take to their particular tables. At the commencement of dinner, the Secretary was presented with a beautiful bunch of pink carnations from Holland, and a Dutch landscape by a well-known artist. We had a very lively dinner table, and at its close the following telegrams were read: "Convey my welcome to the nurses of Holland and my good wishes that they will greatly enjoy their visit to England.—Alexandra, Princess Arthur of Connaught, President of the Royal British Nurses' Association." And: "Heartfelt greetings to our Dutch colleagues from absent members of the Royal British Nurses' Association." Miss Macdonald expressed the good wishes of the Council and Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association that their Dutch colleagues might have a pleasant time in England and the hope that they would realise how very welcome they were at the Headquarters of the Association. She then proposed the toast of "The Nurses from Holland"; the champagne for this toast was given by the Club's Fairy Godmother, Mrs. John Temple. After



GROUP OF DUTCH NURSES ON STEPS OF R.B.N.A. HEADQUARTERS.  
Miss Meyboom with Wreath for Miss Nightingale's Grave.

greeted one another on the steps and in the hall. Immediately it ceased playing, the Dutch nurses spontaneously started to sing "God Save the King," and referring to this later a Dutch nurse said to us: "How very much the English must love their King for, from the moment we sang 'God Save the King,' it was as though the Club were the home of the Dutch nurses too." While coffee and cake were being served, British and Dutch chatted and laughed together, as though they had known one another for years; incidentally, this happy position of affairs was largely due to the accomplishments of the nurses of Holland who are splendid linguists.

When we explored Queen's Gate in search of "homes," our visitors were evidently much amused to find each room with its particular name (*e.g.*, Honeysuckle, Blue Bird, Wee Moderns, and, highest of all, Tipperary and Sky Pilots). "So much better than numbers," it was said.

For mid-day dinner all assembled in the dining-room, a large room on this occasion, for the partitioning doors had to be opened, which communicate with the Council Chamber. The British nurses were in hospitable mood,

the toast had been honoured, Miss Meyboom, on behalf of the Dutch nurses, said that she could not express how deeply touched she and her colleagues had been by the warmth of their reception. It had been a great experience, and one which they would never forget. She had been at the Headquarters of the Royal British Nurses' Association before, and she had told her colleagues something of what their experiences would be, but already they had said to her, "You did not tell us half how good." It had been a great joy to them to see the two national flags flying for their welcome. The British nurses had thought of everything, and now she would propose the toast of "The Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association." This was honoured and the Dutch nurses sang after it their song of good fellowship:—

Lang sal sy leven,  
Lang sal sy leven,  
Lang sal sy leven in de gloria,  
In de gloria,  
In de gloria . . .  
Hiep hiep hyera!" (Three times.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)