

and organise a History of Nursing Department in Holland.

On their returning to the Council Chamber the President invited the Dutch guests to render some of their fascinating national songs, which gave very great pleasure. Miss Schipper, Superintendent of District Nurses in Amsterdam, then presented to Mrs. Fenwick a lovely sheaf of flowers, expressing the pleasure of the Dutch Nurses at their reception at the College, and saying how much they appreciated the benefits derived from the interchange of visits between Nurses of different nationalities, which resulted in mutual understanding, and a realisation of common difficulties and aspirations.

Miss Schipper expressed to Mrs. Fenwick in warm terms their realisation of the debt which the Nurses of the world owed to her for the foundation of the International Council of Nurses, and said that the trained Nurses of Holland recognised in her a great pioneer who had done much for the benefit of the Nursing Profession, and of humanity.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick expressed to Miss Schipper and the Nurses the pleasure which it had been to herself and the members of the Council to have the opportunity of receiving them as their guests, and her thanks for the lovely flowers.

Then, after the singing of the National Anthems of both countries, good-byes were said, and soon the guests of the afternoon were speeding away to their headquarters.

#### Other Nursing Centres.

Through the kindness of the Matron-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and the Matron of Millbank Hospital the nurses were able to go to tea there, and came back much impressed by the efficiency, and what they spoke of as, "the atmosphere" of this, the leading military hospital in London. They were conducted over the offices of the General Nursing Council by Miss Davies and, in the short time at their disposal, saw much of the highly organised administration there, with its evidences of rapidly growing professional educational development. Next they went to the College of Nursing and were taken over the building by Miss Rundle and Miss Sheriff McGregor, who explained to them details of the work in the various departments. Afterwards they were entertained to luncheon by Miss Cox Davies (President of the College) and Miss Lloyd Still, at the Cowdray Club, hospitality which they greatly enjoyed.

During their short visit the Dutch managed to see a great deal of our English General and Special Hospitals; their energy led the Press to give them the title of the "Flying Dutchwomen." "Is it a compliment?" they asked us doubtfully, and we assured them it was. St. Thomas's Hospital came in for its usual share of admiration and the nurses regarded themselves as being greatly privileged when they were shown the clothes of Miss Nightingale. Of the fine Nurses' Home and the new wards at the Middlesex Hospital they spoke with much enthusiasm, and the preliminary school at University College Hospital was described as one of the finest things they saw. Plaistow Hospital they considered an excellent example of a very efficient infectious diseases hospital; and at Bethlem Royal, Colindale, and other hospitals, they saw many things of great interest; after each visit to a hospital there were comparisons, some in favour of the Dutch, some in favour of the English Hospitals.

#### The Sights of London.

But it was not only places of interest from a professional point of view that the nurses visited. Besides Westminster they went to service at St. Paul's, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, the Guards' Chapel and the Dutch Church in London; some were even energetic enough to go at midnight

to see the work done in the crypt of St. Martin's. All the most famous "sights" of London were visited and theatres were kind in placing seats for their performances at the disposal of the nurses of Holland. During the last week of their stay Mrs. Disney Cran (Miss Peggy Cochrane) and Miss Vansittart arranged an informal concert at the Club to help us to entertain our guests. First Miss Kicke gave a fine performance at the piano, and then Miss Liddell sang beautifully a number of old English Folk Songs and several of the songs of the North. (Incidentally it was interesting to the Dutch Nurses to meet Sir Harold Boulton, the writer of many of these, next day.) But the great treat of the evening was Mrs. Cran's violin; she had given up one of her many broadcasting engagements, we were told, in order to come, and the applause which greeted her music showed that she had an appreciative audience. At the close of the evening flowers were handed to Mrs. Cran by Miss Meyboom and, in thanking her, Miss Meyboom said that she could endorse what she had heard said that evening—she might take her squad of "Flying Dutchwomen" across the world and she would not hope to find for them a more exquisite evening's entertainment.

#### Presentation to Princess Arthur of Connaught, S.R.N.

On the following day the Dutch Nurses had a Reception at 194, Queen's Gate, and H.R.H. the Princess Arthur of Connaught honoured this with her presence. The Nurses were presented to the Princess in the Council Chamber, and they handed to Her Royal Highness a sheaf of tulips tied with the colours of Holland. In the drawing-room the Princess asked them many questions about their work in Holland, and they were charmed and fascinated by her knowledge of hospital work. Miss Meyboom presented to the Association, from the Dutch Nurses, two fine sets of old Dutch brass candlesticks with brackets, and expressed the hope that these would be a symbol to the English Nurses of the friendship of the Nurses of Holland. In accepting the gift, on behalf of the Association, H.R.H. the President said that it would always be to the members a beautiful remembrance of the pleasure which the visit of the Dutch Nurses to their Club had given to them. The Nurses were much interested to meet Major Sir Richard Barnett, for they had heard something from the English nurses of the part he had taken in achieving legal status for the Nurses of Great Britain. As the Princess rose to go the Dutch asked permission to sing the British National Anthem, and were very gratified when Her Royal Highness asked them to sing their own also.

#### The Light Fantastic Toe.

A dance had been arranged for the evening—a real Cinderella affair, for was it not given by the Fairy God-mother? Just a few days before, a little bird had whispered to Mrs. Temple, in Liverpool, that the nurses considered that there ought to be a dance for the entertainment of our guests. Her cheque came next day with the mandate that the dance was to take place, and we had just five days in which to hurry out invitations, but nevertheless about a hundred and twenty ladies and gentlemen in equal numbers were present "to trip the light fantastic toe." The first guest to arrive was a tall Highlander in tartan kilt and plaid. But soon others turned up in more sombre attire and the floor was filled. Or did we only dream that the Dutch Nurses had arrived and were dancing in an English ball-room? Had we fallen asleep on some hillside? Surely there was the sound of pipes tuning up! It was no dream for when the band stopped at the close of a dance there came the skirl of the pipes sure enough and a "braw piper" entered, with waving kilt and ribbons of tartan flying, and marched round the room playing the beautiful national

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