

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

The arrangements for the Third Annual Dinner of the College, to be held at the Monico Restaurant, Shaftesbury Avenue, on Wednesday, July 9th, are now nearly complete. The guests will be received by the President (Mrs. Bedford Fenwick) and the Councillors in the Renaissance Saloon, and she will be in the Chair. A charming little band will provide sweet music, and an imposing Toast Master will control the ceremonies.

Some twenty-four persons of eminence in Art, Music, the Drama, Literature and Science have accepted the invitation of the Council to be present.

Our Dinners have always a *raison d'être*, and this year we are to have as Guests of Honour, "The Gifted of the Gods," those favoured ones who have been endowed with special talents and power of expression. Amongst our guests is the Duchess of Bedford, so well known to us as a lover of our work, and whose beautiful hospital for sick and wounded at Woburn Abbey during the war was evidence not only of her patriotism, but a proof of her rare gift as a mechanician—a talent which has inspired her love of sailing and aviation, and won for her the title of the Flying Duchess.

Sir Charles J. Holmes, K.C.V.O., Director of the National Gallery, 1916—1928, will speak to us on "Painting." Mr. Allan Wyon, the sculptor of the Isla Stewart Plaque, in the Memorial Library at Barts., will speak on "Sculpture." Dr. John B. McEwen, Director of the Royal Academy of Music, on "Music." Miss Vera Beringer, on "The Drama." Miss Elizabeth Scott, the designer of the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-on-Avon, will be present. Our sincere friend, so witty and eloquent, Mrs. Baillie Reynolds, will have something to say on "Literature"; and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., hopes, if divisions permit, to reply for the guests.

We are to have with us Mrs. Keynes, J.P., President of the National Council of Women of Great Britain; Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, J.P., Vice-President of the International Council of Women; Lady Baddeley, J.P., a former "Queen of the City." We shall come into touch with several of our stage favourites—Miss Winifred Mayo, Mr. Lewis Casson (Sybil Thorndike's husband), and Mr. Cedric Hardwick. Mrs. Massey Lyon and Miss C. Burford Rawlings (of the Society of Women Journalists), and Dr. Marie Stopes, will be with us; and Mr. Bishop Harman will represent the British Medical Association. Dame Anne Beadsmore Smith, R.R.C., of the Territorials, Miss M. E. Medforth, R.R.C. (Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S.), and Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C. (Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales), Mrs. John Temple (the Fairy Godmother of the R.B.N.A.), and a hundred of our most enthusiastic Fellows and Members have already applied for tickets. There is very little doubt, therefore, that our Dinner, as usual, is in for a great success.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

We are glad to hear that a large number of Fellows and Members intend to be present at the Annual General Meeting, at 39, Portland Place, W.1, on Thursday, July 10th, at 3 p.m., to be followed by a Reception by the Council.

A very interesting Fourth Annual Report will be presented, showing the great amount of work carried out by the Council during the past year, on educational, social and economic lines, for the benefit of the Nursing Profession. The three new members of the Council (Miss E. Brodie, Miss Norah Farrant, Fellows, and Miss Henrietta Ballard, Member) hope to be present, whom their colleagues will be pleased to meet. Fellows and Members are at liberty to bring friends interested in the work of the College to the Reception—and to see the Nursing History Exhibit which will be on view.

NIGHTINGALEIANA.

THE GLADSTONE PAPERS.

As announced in *The Times*, Mr. H. N. Gladstone has made a gift to the nation of extraordinary value, of what are known as The Gladstone Papers now at Hawarden Castle. In the near future they will be available for study at the British Museum—and praise be will not flit across the Atlantic.

Quotations from the "Papers" have been contributed to and published by *The Times*—amongst them letters from celebrated persons of vital historic interest. With permission we reproduce the following letter from Florence Nightingale who was a devoted admirer and friend of Mr. Gladstone. "I would put off the universe to see you," she writes in one letter. A bond between them was their mutual regard for Sidney Herbert. The letter we are permitted to reprint, from which the following extracts are taken, was written on the death of Lord Lawrence (of Indian Mutiny fame) in 1879:—

I heard that you were yesterday at Lord Lawrence's funeral, and not knowing how far you were acquainted with the story of his last days, I have ventured to think that you might care to hear of them from one who has been privileged to know and serve with two such men as Sidney Herbert and Lord Lawrence. . . .

Lord Lawrence's last years were spent in work: though almost blind, he waded with the help of a private secretary thro' piles of Blue Books chiefly, but not wholly, Indian, bringing the weight of his unrivalled experience to bear upon them. Up to Tuesday night, tho' very ill (he died on the Thursday) he worked. On the Thursday before, he had spoken in the House of Lords on the Indian Finance question.

The disease, tedious and trying, of which he died was brought on by his London School Board work. . . . The extraordinary virtue, the self-denial, the love of duty of those three years of hard work on the London School Board by the Viceroy of the Indies, the organizer of the Punjab, will they have been wasted?

He gave an impression, I believe, of much sternness in public: but the tenderness, the playfulness of his intercourse in private were beyond a woman's tenderness. He had the blue eye and the expression in it (before the most painful operation to his eyes) of a girl of 16: and the massive brow and head of a General of Nations rather than armies. You remember in 1863, in December, when he was summoned at a few days notice to go to India as Governor-General, to replace the dying Lord Elgin. We had just concluded our R. Commission on the Sanitary State of the Indian Army (of which Sidney Herbert was the first chairman, Lord Stanley the second). He, Sir John Lawrence, came to me in those last hurried days, and we sketched out the whole plan of Sanitary proceedings for all India, which he carried out and which has resulted in so much, thank God for it.

I received a letter from him—received the day after his death, dictated, but signed by himself—sending me some recent Indian Reports, private papers, which he had read and wished me to read—all marked and the page turned down, where he had left off. This was his legacy! . . . O! that I could do something for India for which he lived and died.

The simplicity of the man could not be surpassed, the

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