

relating to Miss Florence Nightingale. The lecturer remarked that Florence Nightingale had once said that, in the days when she first started the Training School at St. Thomas's Hospital, one did not only risk health, in training as a nurse, but reputation also, and that it was quite a common thing for the students to go round the wards with a trolley to pick up the drunken nurses. But a great English writer had also done something towards nursing reform. He took his pen and drew an odd, piquant, fascinating little figure—Sairey Gamp—and set her before the British public as the spirit of nursing as it existed at that time.

A picture of one of the first pioneers for the organisation of the medical profession in Britain was put on the screen, that of Dr. Peter Lowe (born in the sixteenth century), Founder of the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. The efforts of the nurses to standardise their profession during the past forty years was almost a reflection of the impulse which Lowe sought to give in the medical profession more than 300 years before.

With Florence Nightingale came the movement towards higher education and knowledge. Inevitably with the advancement of professional knowledge, professional organisation must follow, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick brought the impulse for this. At twenty-four years of age, she was Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital and, after her marriage, in 1887, she founded the first organisation of nurses in the world—the Royal British Nurses' Association. But her great life purpose was to secure legal status for the nursing profession by the establishment of Acts for the Registration of Trained Nurses. Other countries had taken up the message, and now, throughout the world, there were 110 different Nurses' Registration Acts and Enactments. Reference was made to the International Council of Nurses founded by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in London, in 1899, and the progress it had made was indicated by the fact that some 7,000 nurses, members of its Affiliated Associations, had attended the last Congress of the Council at Montreal in 1929.

Since the days when Florence Nightingale inaugurated her Training School for Nurses at St. Thomas's Hospital, and the work of organising the Profession had started, the latter had evolved so rapidly in its different branches that it would take the pen, not of a Dickens, but of a Shakespeare, to delineate for us the Spirit of Nursing of the present age.

At the close of her lecture, Miss Macdonald put on the screen a copy of the beautiful picture, by Sir Noel Paton, of Queen Margaret of Scotland teaching Malcolm Canmore to read; she said that she thought her audience had been singularly forbearing in not reminding her before that this great Queen had been a Saxon Princess before her marriage to Malcolm. She, however, claimed that Scotland had some part in the last of the line of Royal British Nurses and placed on the screen a picture of H.R.H. Princess Arthur of Connaught, in her own right Duchess of Fife, remarking that these two beautiful pictures spanned nearly a thousand years. She stated that Princess Arthur was trained at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, studied gynaecological nursing for a year at the Samaritan Free Hospital, midwifery for three months at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, had given

further service at University College Hospital, and had been registered by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

A very pleasing portrait of His Majesty the King was cast on the screen as a finale, at the sight of which the whole audience rose and sang "God Save the King."

The President in tendering to Her Royal Highness the thanks of those present for presiding at the lecture, said that it was the first time the British College of Nurses had been honoured by a visit from a member of the Royal Family, but she hoped it would not be the last. She reminded the audience that the Princess was the only Royal State Registered Nurse in the world.

The Princess then called upon Miss Cochrane to move a vote of thanks to Miss Macdonald for her lecture.

Miss Cochrane said that she moved this vote of thanks with the very greatest pleasure. She was sure those present had thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated it. In the past many dull histories had been written, which few read. Miss Macdonald's lecture was an incentive to go home and dig deeper into the past history of nursing.

Her Royal Highness was then shown many of the most interesting exhibits in the History of Nursing Section which had been arranged by Miss A. M. Bushby; these included signed letters, books, reports, pictures, etc., referring to Miss Florence Nightingale and other nursing pioneers, in which she showed a very eager interest. After visiting the various Departments of the College the Princess took tea, before leaving, in the Members' Club Room, and gave great pleasure by visiting the rooms in which the Reception was being held before she left.

THE RECEPTION.

At the Reception following the Lecture the hostesses, who were Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Vice-President and Miss A. M. Bushby, Councillor of the College, the 150 Nurses and guests were received in the Council Chamber and the Secretary's Office, where a sumptuous tea was served. These fine rooms looked charming decorated with bronze and gold chrysanthemums, the beautiful cabinet of English "blue and white" was greatly admired, and a very happy spirit of hospitality prevailed.

The Members' Club Room, where the Princess took tea, was a bower of lovely pink flowers—roses, chrysanthemums and begonias, a charming contrast to the eggshell blue walls which the members find so restful an environment when they visit the College to see the papers, or to meet their friends and take tea.

Altogether the Reception was voted most enjoyable and a great success, and many expressions of pleasure were overheard.

Hostesses, Councillors, and the Secretarial Department combined to make the guests as happy as possible and a memorable afternoon in the annals of the College.

THE MEMORIAL PLATTER.

Registration Day will be observed this year on December 20th, at 5 p.m., after the meeting of the Council, when the silver Memorial Platter will be used for the cake in honour of the late Sir Richard Barnett. All subscribers will receive an invitation for this ceremony.

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