

special tribute to the nursing profession, one of the noblest professions for women, and one that never fails to arouse the deepest gratitude and highest admiration.

The Ambassador concluded by thanking the Prince for the honour of his presence.

Prince George's Response.

Prince George in responding said:—

Sir Herbert Samuelson, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank you for your Address of Welcome and can assure you that it gives me the greatest pleasure to be here to-day to open the new Preliminary Training School for Nurses.

It also gives me special pleasure to see the American Ambassador with us, and to be able to express to him our gratitude for the grant which the Rockefeller Foundation of the United States has made to the University College Hospital.

This grant has enabled us to become a centre with unrivalled facilities for the training of our doctors and nurses and for the development of research.

It is to the Rockefeller Foundation that we owe our new Maternity Hospital, new Nurses' Homes, new Wing in the Main Hospital with 100 additional beds, new Theatres and Laboratories and important extensions to our Medical School. To-day we are commemorating their latest, and by no means least important gift, the new Preliminary School for Nurses.

All these improvements, besides nearly doubling our accommodation for patients, have also much assisted the educational side of the hospital.

I feel we must all acknowledge our debt to the skilled doctor and the trained nurse, and to the hospitals which educate them.

Personally, I have a very special reason for paying a tribute to doctors and nurses, for I know that to skilful treatment and devoted nursing the King's recovery from his serious illness is very largely due.

Sir Herbert Samuelson has given us a most interesting account of a nurse's training and the marked influence which the Training School has on her career.

He has told us of the developments which have recently taken place in nursing education and of what is being done to secure for the nursing profession its proper status.

I am in entire sympathy with this movement, and I look forward to the day when the nursing profession will meet with the public recognition which it so fully merits and which, if I may say so, is long overdue.

With the means now available in our new Preliminary Training School, we shall be able to enlarge our scope of work, and I am sure that the nurses trained here will be a credit both to their profession and to this hospital.

I have now much pleasure in declaring open the new Nursing School, and I earnestly wish it all prosperity and success.

The Minister of Health, the Right Hon. Arthur Green-

wood, M.P., in moving a resolution of thanks to His Royal Highness, said that the end to be achieved by the establishment of the new Preliminary Training School was the promotion of Nursing Education, so that there might be spread abroad, in this country and beyond it, instructed and competent nurses. He continued: "Parliament recognised nursing as a profession eleven years ago in the Nurses' Registration Act, and since 1925 admission to the Register has been by examination alone, and more than 16,000 nurses have entered the nursing profession by that hard road."

A Charming Memento.

Miss R. E. Darbyshire, Matron of the Hospital, who spoke clearly and fluently, then said:—

Your Royal Highness,—I have this afternoon been given the great privilege of asking Your Royal Highness to accept this little statuette as a small memento of the opening of our Preliminary Training School. The little figure represents a Nurse in the first-year uniform of the hospital carrying a book under her arm and obviously setting forth upon an eager quest for knowledge. This, we hope, is symbolic of the spirit of the nurses who enter our school, and it is our great happiness to know that we can now give our young student nurses the best chance of acquiring that knowledge in a school built and equipped as an educational building. We have hitherto endeavoured to give the preliminary pupils a good grounding in their profession,

but we have been much hampered by lack of room and restricted teaching facilities. Now we have received this splendid gift from the Rockefeller Foundation we feel it is a cherished ambition realised and a dream come true.

Although we fully realise how important it is that the Nurse of the future should be thoroughly taught the theory of her profession, we hope never to lose sight of the importance of her practical training, and we shall always endeavour to keep before us the teaching of the great founder of our profession, Miss Florence Nightingale.

In 1874 Miss Nightingale wrote in one of her 'Letters



Photo]

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