

Middlesex came through triumphant and for the first time was the holder of the Vase.

It was very gratifying to the Park Swimming Club to learn at the conclusion of the evening that owing to its very great efforts £884 had been raised for the Prince of Wales' Hospital.

Under most favourable conditions the Final of the Tennis Tournament at the Croydon General Hospital was played by Miss Llewellyn and Miss Wood in the grounds on Wednesday, August 5th, the game resulting in a win for the former (6-4, 6-4). Mr. J. Young kindly acted as umpire.

A silver cup given annually by the Matron, Miss C. L. Keys-Wells, was presented to Miss Llewellyn by Lady Brown, in the absence of Lady Edridge.

Tea was served under the cedar tree, and included in the large gathering were members of the Board, the Honorary Medical and Surgical Staff with their wives and daughters, Matrons from neighbouring Hospitals, and "old" Nurses.

The School for Nurses of the Toronto General Hospital this year completed fifty years of service, and the occasion was celebrated by a three-day Reunion of the graduates.

*The Canadian Nurse* for August devoted considerable space to a most interesting illustrated *résumé* of the proceedings, including an admirable portrait of Miss Snively as her pupils remember her, of the tiny York Hospital in 1819 (later the Toronto General Hospital), the stately hospital of the present day, an attractive group of nurses in the uniform of 1881, the year the School for Nurses, which has since graduated 1,867 nurses, was organized, and a very remarkable group of the Nursing Staff taken in 1877 before the formation of the School. The Nurses may not have been highly trained, but the immaculate neatness of their uniform might well be studied by many in training at the present day.

The Alumnae Association took a very active part in the arrangements for the Reunion, the responsibility being delegated to a special Committee with Miss Nellie Fidler as convener. It was the happiness of the graduates to have with them two former Superintendents of their school, Miss Snively, who held office from 1884 to 1910, and Miss Robina L. Stewart from 1910 to 1913, with Miss Jean I. Gunn, the much loved Superintendent of Nurse at the present time.

"To many of the early graduates," says *The Canadian Nurse*, "the celebration really meant seeing Miss Snively, and living over again those early days of their own youth when Miss Snively's influence and guidance played such an important part. Amongst the functions arranged were a garden party given by the Board of Trustees, at which the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. W. D. Ross honoured the Nurses by their presence, a Special Meeting of the Alumnae Association, and the Graduation Exercises of the Class of 1931, when Mr. C. S. Blackwell, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, acted as Chairman, and the Address was given by the Hon. Newton Rowell, K.C. The class of 1931 regarded it as a special privilege to have their pins and diplomas presented to them by Miss Snively.

At the Reunion Dinner, which was attended by some 750 graduates, and which was again honoured by the presence of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the

Class of 1931 were the special guests of honour. The speech of the evening was, of course, that of Miss Snively, who received a great ovation. Miss Snively mentioned with affectionate pride the large number of graduates who by their faithfulness, courage and self-sacrifice and devotion to duty, have brought honour and distinction to their Alma Mater. She referred to the outstanding excellence of the service rendered by Miss Jean E. Browne, Director of Junior Red Cross for the Dominion of Canada, and to the wise, kind and just guidance of their Nursing School by such an able administrator as Miss Jean I. Gunn. Lastly she asked her hearers to consider that the one greater thing—a life-long endeavour—was beauty of character.

On her return to London from a tour in Scotland and the English Lakes country, Miss Elnora E. Thomson, the charming President of the American Nurses' Association, paid a farewell visit to the British College of Nurses. She has now returned to Portland, Oregon, and will resume her work as Professor of Applied Sociology and Director of Nursing Education in the University of Oregon. She takes with her the good wishes of many with whom she formed lasting friendships while on this side of the Atlantic.

Miss M. Roberts, Editor of the *American Journal of Nursing*, writing in the August issue on "Some Impressions of British Nursing," says:

"It was a Ward Sister (Head Nurse) who quite unconsciously gave us a clue to the spirit of British Nursing. Seated in her small sitting room just off the ward, the American visitor said 'Tell me about this room, why do you have it? It would seem a luxury to us.' 'It is a great comfort,' she replied, 'to have this room on days when I cannot leave my ward. But, of course, that is not all it is used for. Suppose, for example, a patient has a mental trauma of some sort. The Chief may say 'Sister, see if you can find out what is troubling this patient.' When that happens, and it often does, I bring the patient into this room, I make her comfortable, I talk to her about anything that interests her, and finally about herself. You cannot do that in an open ward. Or, suppose I have to tell the family or friends of a patient that the doctors think the end is near. I surely could not do that in the open ward with the patients liable to overhear.' And so, bit by bit, from one Sister and another in a number of London's great hospitals we pieced together something of the attitude of the English head nurse toward her patients. This is an important point in even a cursory study of British nursing, for it is by extremely careful selection of ward sisters that the British Matron (Superintendent of Nurses) assures continuity of her school's tradition of fine nursing service. No one of the ward sisters talked of caring for 'the whole patient,' mental hygiene was not mentioned, there was no discussion of the patient 'in relation to his family and to society,' but all of them were concerned with the mental as well as the physical state of the patient and they were well informed about the family and social relationships. They did not talk of case study, or of sociological implications. Apparently, to them, all these things are implicit in nursing and are learned by long and close contact with patients."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)