

## THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION DINNER.

The dinner given by the Royal British Nurses' Association for the International guests on Wednesday, July 6th, was a very enjoyable social gathering. The rooms at Queen's Gate lend themselves to such functions for the space and fine panelling make a background adaptable to any scheme of decoration. The tables were decorated by Miss Beatrice Treasure with summer roses so beautiful that they seemed to subordinate everything else into a lovely harmony. Mrs. John Temple had given some excellent sparkling Moselle and other good things. In fact the Association is greatly indebted to both of those ladies for all they did to help it in its particular part in the social activities of Nightingale Week. The cook, who always takes a keen practical interest in making all the nurses' functions as successful as possible, had done her best to provide the International Guests with a typical English dinner which was evidently highly approved.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick presided, Sister Bergliot Larsson on her right, and Mlle. Hellemans on her left, supported by Miss Fairley and Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D.

### SINCERE GOOD WISHES FROM H.R.H. THE PRESIDENT.

It was stated that a note had been sent to H.R.H. the President (Princess Arthur of Connaught) the day before informing her that the Association was entertaining the delegates who had come to participate in Nightingale Week. Her Royal Highness had telephoned during the day that she would have come in during the evening to meet the delegates but was leaving town. She desired that a message be given to the guests that she was very disappointed that it was impossible for her to meet them and that her sincere good wishes be expressed that they would greatly enjoy their visit to England. A telegram with greetings which gave great pleasure was read by the Chairman received from the Swedish Nurses' Association, who were not represented at the Conference.

### THE SENIOR ASSOCIATION OF NURSES.

After proposing the toasts of Their Majesties and afterwards of H.R.H. the Princess Arthur of Connaught, President of the Corporation, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick proposed the health of the guests. They were being entertained to-night by the oldest Association of Nurses in the world and tradition was therefore playing its part, in a certain way, in a gathering within these headquarters. Mrs. Fenwick then gave a short account of the founding of the Association in 1887 and the "somewhat tumultuous history" of its early years. Such, she said, must always be the

lot of pioneer organisations with a progressive purpose. Although there now appeared to be greater understanding and unity in the profession it was to be remembered that differences of opinion must and would come in the course of its development, and she hoped that it would always have courageous leaders ready to protect its privileges and to further its progress.

Mrs. Fenwick then touched on the history of the International Council of Nurses, saying that it was fitting that at such a gathering as this we should remember those who had helped to found it and who had gathered at many such festive functions in the past. There was Isla Stewart, faithful always to her convictions and ideals, Isabel Hampton Robb, the charming Baroness Sophie Mannerheim, Agnes Karll, one of the most forceful of those early pioneers. Then we had with us still Lavinia Dock, humanitarian, musician, linguist, historian. Talents had been showered upon Lavinia Dock, and it was to be regretted that she had not been able to cross the Atlantic in order to be with us in this historic week. Then was mentioned the name of her great compatriot Adelaide Nutting, in the first rank of intellectuals in the nursing profession. And there were other fine leaders, Miss Agnes Sniveley, who founded the Canadian Nurses' Association, Mrs. Tscherning and Miss Charlotte Munck of Denmark. There were others who had taken perhaps a less prominent part in international affairs but who were nevertheless remembered with gratitude, owing to their vision, idealism and loyalty. Lastly she (Mrs. Fenwick) would mention Margaret Breay. Miss Breay was one of the Founders of the International and a signatory to the Royal Charter of the Corporation of the R.B.N.A. whose hospitality they were enjoying that evening. There was no one like Miss Breay and there never would be anyone like



H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT, R.R.C., S.R.N.  
President of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

her again. For years she had given of her fine intellect, her idealism, her saintly goodness to the cause of the nursing profession. Hers had been the devotion of a lifetime, and fortunately her teaching and example were incorporated in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for the past forty years.

### THE IDEALS OF LIFE.

In replying to the toast Miss Bergliot Larsson (President of the Norwegian Nurses' Association) said that it had been a great honour to sit at the right hand of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in this the first Association of Nurses in the world. There was something inspiring about the idea and the surroundings, something one could not resist, something that seemed to speak in the beautiful flowers and the friendly faces around the tables. It was just something that one could feel yet not explain, but it gave such an

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