

## THE HISTORY DINNER.

### GROSVENOR HOUSE, PARK LANE, MAY 4th.

The "History Dinner" has come and gone but we think those who attended, and there were over 200 present, are of opinion that it was a brilliant success, and many realise the arduous work entailed in making it so. We have to thank every member of the staff at Grosvenor House for the courtesy extended to us, and the charming arrangements made for us. It was delightful to have the two beautiful rooms thrown into one so that there was space for our Reception—and the delightful band—without crowding the Ball Room where the Dinner was served. The President Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, with the help of members of the Council of the British College of Nurses, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss Farrant, Miss D. K. Graham, Miss Brodie, Miss Ballard, and others received the guests—and seated in state was Miss Margaret Breay, attending a public function for the first time since her long illness—and holding a Court all on her own of many old friends delighted to welcome her.

The most magnificent bouquets awaited presentation to the President, one of palest pink carnations from the members of the Council, presented by Miss Cochrane, and a truly royal bouquet of red roses and white lilac from "Sister Flora" (Miss Beatrice Treasure). Miss Breay received a bunch of exquisite pink roses. A splendid bouquet reposed on the round table prepared for the Royal Nurses of which more anon.

The tables were most tastefully decorated with lovely pink tulips and sweet peas.

When Dinner was announced Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who took the Chair, led the way with Sir D'Arcy Power, the two hundred guests soon finding their allotted seats.

The following guests, mostly speakers, sat facing the room, to the right of the Chair: Sir D'Arcy Power, K.B.E., M.A., F.R.C.S., Lady Hermione Blackwood, Dr. Porter Phillips, M.D., F.R.C.P., Dame Ann Beadsmore, D.B.E., R.R.C., Captain A. S. Cunningham-Reid, D.F.C., M.P. (for St. Marylebone), Miss Isabel Macdonald, F.B.C.N., The Rev. George Berens-Dowdeswell, who said Grace, Miss G. Le Geyt, F.B.C.N., Mrs. Monsell (Margaret Irwin) author of "Royal Flush" one of the finest historical novels of the year, and Miss S. C. Hearder, Matron of the Royal Bethlem Hospital.

The Chairman had seated on her left Professor F. Gymer Parsons, D.Sc.(Lond), F.R.C.S., Historian of St. Thomas's Hospital, the Hon. Mrs. Cunningham-Reid, Sir George Turner, K.B.E., C.B., F.R.C.S., Miss Helen Dey, R.R.C., Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Mrs. O'Malley (author of "Life of Florence Nightingale"), Allen S. Walker, Esq., Lecturer on Historic London, whose every stone is known to him, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., F.B.C.N., Matron, Charing Cross Hospital, Professor C. K. Webster, M.A., D.Litt., Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and Miss G. E. Stephenson, Past President of the Chinese Nurses' Association, Author and Lecturer.

In addition as guests of honour there were present Miss M. E. Medforth, C.B.E., R.R.C., Matron in Chief, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, Miss R. Osborne, R.R.C., Matron in Chief, Territorial Force Nursing Service, Miss K. C. Watt, R.R.C., Matron in Chief, Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service, Mrs. Berens-Dowdeswell, Mrs. Porter Phillips and Miss N. L. Dorsey, and Miss Margaret Helen Hart, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, awarded the Nutting-Dock International Prize for her Essay on "Pre-Reformation Nurses in England."

### THE PROCESSION OF HISTORIC ROYAL NURSES.

Before Dinner was served, each guest having received a Programme, the Toast Master announced the "Procession of Historic Royal Nurses," during which the Band played the air on G. String by Bach. Leading the Procession and walking with truly regal dignity came the Empress Helena (Miss A. M. Bushby) she was seen proceeding along the balcony, and descending the steps and so through the outer Hall, into the Ball Room, where in the centre eight gold chairs were placed in a semi-circle around the centre table. With the greatest dignity in their magnificent robes, mantles, veils and crowns, the eight Royal Nurses passed to their places, amidst murmurs of admiration.

Following the Empress Helena, in golden robe and purple mantle, lavishly jewelled with precious stones and jewelled Cross, came Queen Margaret, the "Pearl of Scotland," a most realistic and lovely presentation by Miss Shelagh Nunn-Pattrick, in apple green and white brocade and mantle of cream velvet, her historic golden hair worn in long plaits, veiled and crowned.

Matilda, "the Good" (daughter of Margaret) and wife of Henry I of England, represented by Miss K. M. Latham, R.R.C., nominated by the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, was exquisitely dressed in rose and gold brocade and rose velvet mantle; she carried her dignities as if to the manner born.

Followed Matilda of Boulogne, wife of King Stephen, in gold and blue brocade, and lovely mauve mantle, Miss E. J. Haswell, tall, with royal carriage, and gracious withal, could not fail to have been beloved for her goodness by the poor of London.

She was followed by a lovely and ethereal figure "The Holy Elizabeth" of Thuringia, dressed in pastel blue and pink and gold brocade, a mantle of pink velvet and white coif. Miss Rosemary Eley, was exquisitely realistic and affecting in the character of this well-beloved Saint-Marguerite of Provence, Queen of Saint Louis of France was represented by Miss Beatrice Treasure. Her lovely dress of blue and silver brocade, with Royal blue mantle trimmed with silver, jewelled and crowned, was copied from a picture sent by Mlle. Chaptal from Paris, and was a triumph of regal splendour.

Eleanor of Castile, the deeply loved Queen of Edward I, was beautifully presented by Miss L. G. Duff-Grant. A golden kirtle and emerald green mantle with veil and crown was worn by this gracious lady with perfect dignity and charm.

Philippa of Hainault, Queen of Edward III, the first lady to wear the Order of the Garter, could not have been more effectively represented than by Mrs. Christian Bedford Fenwick, whose beauty and queen-like carriage, was enhanced by the very splendid dress worn, of cream and gold brocade, crimson velvet mantle, bossed headdress and crown and profusion of glittering jewels.

One after the other as the Royal Nurses entered and took their seats, it was realised how well one and all had been cast for their parts. They presented a truly Imperial Group. Later in the evening by special request the Empress Helena led her Royal Sisters round the hall so that the Processional Pageant could be offered the homage of admiration they deserved and received.

### THE MENU.

There was a time when women were supposed to live on air and enjoyed watching from a gallery the appreciation of the stronger sex when seated round a festive board. This delusion has evaporated like others—so we make no excuse for publishing the Menu of our Dinner, as care was taken in selecting the *plats*, and apparently they were appreciated.

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