

THE UNITED NURSING SERVICES' CLUB HONOURS ITS FOUNDER.

On Thursday, November 30th, a large gathering of distinguished members assembled at the United Nursing Services' Club, 34, Cavendish Square, London, to witness the unveiling, by the Dowager Countess of Airlie, of a pastel portrait of Dame Ethel Becher, G.B.E., R.R.C., founder of the Club.

On her arrival, Lady Airlie was received by the Chairman, Dame Ann Beadsmore Smith, D.B.E., R.R.C., and presented with a beautiful bouquet of pink carnations, roses and white heather.

The ceremony took place in the large drawing-room, charmingly arranged and decorated with a variety of lovely flowers, roses, lilies, carnations and chrysanthemums (the gift of Miss Homer).

In her opening remarks Dame Ann said how gratified the members were that Lady Airlie, who was one of the first friends of the Club, had consented to perform this ceremony. So many members had expressed the wish to have a portrait of Dame Ethel Becher hung in the Club, and were now happy that their dreams had materialised and the portrait had been secured by the members for the Club.

Dame Ann stated further that the Club continued to make satisfactory progress, that the end of the financial year was better than the previous one, and the Directors hoped that by this time next year to have secured the extra accommodation of more bedrooms and another sitting-room.

Dame Ann then invited Lady Airlie to unveil the portrait. The banner of the United Nursing Services kindly lent by the courtesy of the Matron-in-Chief, Miss Medforth, with which the portrait was veiled, attracted especial interest. This beautiful crimson banner, richly embroidered in white, with the badge beneath which are the letters "Q.A.I.M.N.S." and the words "sub candida cruce" was, we learned, the work of an Army Sister, the late Miss Todd.

Lady Airlie then drew aside the banner, saying: "To those of us who lived through the War, although we are told it is 19 years ago, it is with us, always present."

In presenting this portrait, Lady Airlie said that in Dame Ethel's great work she was closely associated with the Lady of the Lamp, and one under whose guidance, as Matron-in-Chief of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service for nine years, from 300 to 10,000 nurses and others were organised without a hitch, and we must have this portrait in remembrance of her who founded this Club.

Dame Ethel replying expressed herself as feeling quite unsuited for such an honour, and hoped she did not appear ungracious in saying so, for she felt most proud, and deeply appreciated the great trouble that Dame Ann had taken in organising this presentation.

Dame Ethel described the great interest and trouble which the Dowager Countess of Airlie had taken in looking for a suitable house for the Club when it was founded, and that her efforts were untiring. In conclusion Dame Ethel said: "I am pleased to have this portrait here for my service in the Q.A.I.M.N.S. is the proudest thing of my life."

Everyone was anxious to view the beautiful pastel portrait of the founder taken by Keturah Collins and coloured by Miss Oldridge, an artist on her staff, in which Dame Ethel is wearing the Army uniform of her rank as Matron-in-Chief of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. showing her military honours. The colouring of the grey dress, scarlet cape and white army cap are most faithfully reproduced, and this charming portrait must ever be a treasured possession of the Club.

The inscription under the portrait is:—

"DAME ETHEL HOPE BECHER, G.B.E., R.R.C.,
Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S. 1910-1919.
Founder of the United Nursing Services
Club in 1921."

Among those present were: Miss M. E. Medforth, C.B.E., R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S., Dame Elizabeth Oram, D.B.E., R.R.C., Dame Beryl Oliver, D.B.E., R.R.C., Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss S. J. Cockrell, R.R.C., Miss B. M. Miller, Miss M. Dempster, Miss R. E. Darbyshire, R.R.C., Capt. H. W. Burleigh and Brig-General Moore, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Following the ceremony a delightful tea was served with the despatch and efficiency which the members have come to expect in all the arrangements made by their invaluable secretary, Miss M. F. Steele, R.R.C., and Miss Gwyneth Wallis, L.R.A.M., delighted those present by her beautiful rendering of a number of charming songs.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION.

A meeting of the Provisional Committee for the proposed Florence Nightingale International Foundation was held at 14, Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1, on Friday, October 6th. Sir Arthur Stanley took the Chair. Miss Lloyd Still, President of the International Council of Nurses, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Chairman of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of the I.C.N., and Miss Musson, Treasurer, represented the I.C.N. Mr. Swift, Secretary-General, and Mrs. Carter, Chief of the Division of Nursing, represented the League of Red Cross Societies.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick reported that the scheme for the proposed Florence Nightingale International Foundation had been unanimously adopted and the appointment of its three representatives on the Provisional Committee confirmed by the International Council of Nurses at its meeting in Paris and Brussels in July. The committee decided to:

- (1) prepare a draft of the statutes for the proposed Foundation;
- (2) to fix provisionally a date in July, 1934, for the constituent meeting at which the Foundation will officially be brought into being;
- (3) to request the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Council of Nurses to inform their respective national members of this action.

It is proposed that invitations to attend the constituent meeting shall be addressed to the national Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees of all countries where such committees have been formed up

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