

Mrs. Christian Bedford Fenwick, who represented Queen Philippa of Hainault at the History "Dinner" in London and in the Pageant of Royal Nurses at the I.C.N. Congress in Paris last year, is paying a visit to Canada and will travel with Miss Cochrane. She is Chairman of the Ladies' Committee of Princess Mary's Maternity Hospital, and also of the Fleming Hospital for Children at Newcastle-on-Tyne, and is anxious to see the latest development in Children's Hospitals, on the other side of the Atlantic. The Children's Hospital at Toronto on the Lake, has always been renowned for excellence and the beauty of its surroundings, and a visit to the "Outdoor Clinic" of the Children's Convalescent Hospital, Thistletown, must not be missed.

A discriminating and well-informed article on "Heroines of the Hospital" appeared in the *Sunday Chronicle* recently from the pen of Mr. Philip Inman, Secretary of Charing Cross Hospital.

Mr. Inman writes with the knowledge both of a hospital official, and of the patient who has had practical experience of the care of nurses. He says:—

"I do not think that [the work of the nurse has received its due recognition. In the great art of healing she is all too often looked upon as a Cinderella. The physician and surgeon are given all the credit.

"Whether we realise it or not there are few of us who are not under some obligation to these women. Readily do I acknowledge my own debt.

"In the space of three years I had to undergo five operations.

"I am alive to-day because of the marvellous skill of my surgeon. But it was unquestionably the nursing profession that made his triumph possible."

Mr Inman writes of the work of the Matron:—

"When I first went to Charing Cross Hospital, I thought that to be its Matron must be one of the greatest

occupations in the world. Then I saw something of her responsibilities—and I was positively appalled."

Then he takes us "round the clock" with her, from the moment when she enters her office at the stroke of 9 a.m. until the Night Superintendent comes on duty at 9 p.m. Well we know the busy round, and the many problems brought to the Matron requiring wise judgment and prompt decision, the round of the wards, and the contact with individual patients, the reception of visitors to the institution, and the attendance at committee meetings. The life of a Matron is indeed no sinecure.

And what of that of the nurses?

"The work of a nurse," says Mr. Inman, "whether she be in the apprentice stage or after she has the much-coveted S.R.N. attached to her name, is extremely arduous and nerve-racking.

"Those who know anything of her duties would endorse that opinion. But there are many relaxations open to her which the ordinary student does not enjoy.

"Practically every hospital has tennis and swimming clubs for the nurses; theatre and concert tickets are sent for their use; libraries of both technical and light literature are provided; excursions are arranged to distract their minds from worrying and harrowing scenes they may have witnessed."

The nurses of a hospital are indeed a happy community. Happy in the service they are able to render to the sick and suffering, in its deep human interest, and in the contact into which their work brings them with other members of their profession and with the community at large. The woman with a true vocation, and no other should attempt to take up nursing

as her profession; she finds happiness in her work and would not change it for any other in the world. The power of applying the skilled knowledge acquired by training for the comfort of humanity is soul satisfying.



MRS. CHRISTIAN BEDFORD FENWICK
Representing Queen Philippa of Hainault at the
History Dinner and at the Pageant of Royal Nurses,
I.C.N. Congress, Paris, 1933.

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