

## THE SILVER JUBILEE OF THE CANADIAN NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The more we hear of the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Canadian Nurses' Association, at its Biennial Meeting at Toronto in June last, the more we are impressed by the brilliance of its success, by the high quality of the papers presented and the discussions which followed them, by the professional spirit which was so marked a feature of the proceedings, and by the warmth of the welcome extended to its Guests of Honour. From this country there were present Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C. (Senior Vice-President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and its Official Delegate), who during the Conference was the guest of the Canadian Nurses' Association at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, where the meetings were held; Mrs. MacGregor Rome, representing Dame Alicia Lloyd Still (President of the International Council of Nurses and also the College of Nursing); Miss Daisy Bridges (Delegate of the Nightingale Fellowship); and Mrs. Christian Bedford Fenwick (daughter-in-law of the Founder of the I.C.N.). From the United States of America, Miss Susan C. Francis (President of the American Nurses' Association), was an honoured guest.

It is manifestly impossible to give a complete account of the celebrations. *The Canadian Nurse*, to which—together with Miss Cochrane's report—we are indebted for much information, truly remarks, "a volume as thick as Webster's Dictionary would be needed to describe at one sitting all that happened during that eventful six days," but the impression is crystal clear of the happiness, good will and concord which characterised this memorable occasion. President H. J. Cody (of the University of Toronto), in a cable read at the Banquet, stated that he knew of no body which did more to foster good will among nations than the Nursing Profession, and it is certain that nothing fosters good will within the Profession itself more than the meeting of its members in conference, and in the social functions which are so pleasant and prominent a feature of the Conferences at which trained nurses foregather.

At this Silver Jubilee Celebration of the C.N.A. every Province in the Dominion was represented and every branch of nursing service. The total registration was over 900 and the actual attendance more than 1,000.

### The Presidential Address.

The keynote was given by Miss Florence H. M. Emory on the afternoon of June 26th, in her inspiring and uplifting Presidential Address on "Yesterday and To-morrow."

Miss Emory said, in part: "More than twenty-five significant years have left their mark upon the Canadian Profession since the Canadian Nurses' Association held its inaugural meeting in Ottawa, in October of the year 1908, and it is that occasion, together with those who planned it, that we wish to honour in a celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the organised profession in Canada.

"In Canadian nursing history there are two figures which stand out in relief against a background of inspired idealism and of indomitable courage—the one a daughter of France (Jeanne Mance), the other of Canada (Mary Agnes Snively).

"The biographer, Foran, in his story of the life of Jeanne Mance, portrays with insight and charm the idealism and courage of this woman, this lay nurse. He tells of her vision of the mission awaiting her in the New World; of her sailing from France in a vessel which took six weeks to reach Quebec; of the hardships of a rigorous Canadian winter as she waited an opportunity to go up to share in the founding of Montreal, and in the establishment of the Hotel Dieu with provision for nursing the sick and those wounded from Indian attacks in a new colony. . . .

"With a discovery of the source of the Canadian nursing stream, high up in the hills of individual endeavour nearly three centuries ago, we trace its course, now winding, now bending, until in the early years of this century is detected the influence which directed the flow into a river of organised effort. That influence was Mary Agnes Snively, Founder of the Canadian Nurses' Association. Nor was her idealism less potent or high than that of her forerunner, Jeanne Mance. Hear her as she sponsors the formation of an organised association in order that Canadian nurses might, through group effort, maintain high standards of nursing in Canada and through that become affiliated with the International Council of Nurses. 'Let us remember,' said she, 'that privilege means responsibility; that a better century does not mean that it should minister unto us, but we to it; and also that we can only be



MISS RUBY SIMPSON, O.B.E.,  
President, Canadian Nurses' Association.  
Elected, June, 1934.

worthy of the great inheritance which has been bequeathed to us as we use our large opportunities to make our country and the world better and brighter and purer with each succeeding year.' This idealism it was which created the Canadian Nurses' Association, which moulded its policies and which has influenced its activities during the past quarter of a century.

"Thus with respect and humility we pay affectionate tribute to two pioneers in nursing, to Jeanne Mance and particularly to Mary Agnes Snively, our late Founder and Honorary President; a vital spirit with a lofty idealism that has inspired more than any other the growth of the

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