

**THE ASSOCIATION OF HOSPITAL MATRONS.**

The Association of Hospital Matrons entertained the Board of Directors and other guests at a delightful dinner at the Dorchester Hotel, on the evening of Monday, July 12th.

The President, Dame Alicia Lloyd Still was in the Chair, and success to the Quadrennial Congress was proposed by H. L. Eason, Esq., Principal of the University of London. The Association also held a Reception at the Cowdray Hall to upwards of 200 guests, and entertained daily during the Congress in the Restaurant at the Central Hall.

**DINNER IN THE GREAT HALL OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.**

On Tuesday, July 13th, the Hon. Officers and the Grand Council of the International Council of Nurses had the honour of dining in the Great Hall at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, on the invitation of the Treasurer, Lord Stanmore, and the Governors of the Hospital. The guests included also the Dean of St. Paul's and Mrs. Matthews, Lord Horder and Lady Horder, the Hon. Sir Odo Russell, Sir Arthur MacNalty, Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, Sir Henry Brackenbury and Sir Crisp and Lady English.

The guests, who were much charmed both at the honour of being invited to dine with the Treasurer and Governors of this ancient hospital, and also with the beauty of the Great Hall and its historic associations, were received at the head of the Grand Staircase by the Treasurer and the Matron, Miss Helen Dey, O.B.E., R.R.C., where the paintings on the walls by Hogarth, recently renovated, were greatly admired.

It was a gay party which sat down to the dinner tables presided over by Lord Stanmore, exquisitely illuminated by candle light in character with the historic Hall. Prominent among the guests were Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, formerly Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Founder of the International Council of Nurses, and Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, the President. Grouped around him at the tables which filled the Great Hall, were distinguished nurses of many nations, impressed with its historic beauty, in which hung, at either end, portraits of Henry VIII and Edward VII; while portraits of famous medical men also looked down upon them from the walls.

The menu was in accordance with the best traditions of the hospitality for which the City of London is famous, beginning with real turtle soup, a different choice wine being served with every course. Need more be said to show that the Treasurer and Governors paid court to the nurses of the world. The music of Vale-Lane's Sextette added much to the charm of the evening.

The toasts were few, that of "The King" was acknowledged with enthusiasm by all present, as was also that which followed, "The Queen, Queen Mary, and the other members of the Royal Family."

The toast of "The International Council of Nurses" was proposed by Lord Stanmore, P.C., K.C.V.O., Treasurer of the Hospital, who welcomed the International Council of Nurses, and expressed his pleasure at receiving the Grand Council attending from so many parts of the world.

He was followed by the Lord Horder, who was amusing on the subject of antiques, with whom he was pleased to associate himself, as also with that antique building, although there were those of opinion that everything antique should be demolished.

[This is not the opinion of Bart's Nurses, who love every stone and tradition of their Royal hospital founded

by Rahere more than 800 years ago, whose spirit still lingers in its wards and inspires the nursing of the patients.]

A vote of thanks to the Treasurer and Governors of the Hospital was moved by Miss E. G. Alexander, South Africa (Vice-president), and a very happy and memorable evening at length drew to a close, and as the guests passed out through the famous old Square they realised it was good to have participated in this historic event. M. B.

**DINNER IN THE SHEPHERD HALL, ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.**

One of the earliest offers of hospitality received for the Grand Council, I.C.N., came from the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, G.B.E., C.B., Treasurer of St. Thomas's Hospital, who invited the Council to dinner at this famous Royal Hospital on the evening of Thursday, July 15th, after which a Reception was to be held in the Nightingale Nurses' Home. Sir Arthur, a most genial host, welcomed his guests in the Shepherd Hall with evident pleasure, and took the Chair with Her Highness Princess Helena Victoria on his right, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick on his left. Every seat was filled with the Presidents and delegates from thirty countries associated in the I.C.N. and eminent guests invited to meet them, and a very gay party they were.

The programme, beautifully got up, printed in blue, presented a plan of the tables with the names of the guests, added to which was a dainty menu card evidently arranged by a *cordons bleu*, and as a delightful souvenir "Tales of Old St. Thomas's" recorded by Professor F. G. Parsons. This is a fascinating pamphlet, throwing light on how the Hospital began (as far as it is recorded) and why it changed its Patron Saint from St. Thomas the Martyr to St. Thomas the Apostle. But we did not feel like martyrs, indeed our mood was very happy inspired by the genial personality of our host.

A delightful programme of music was given by Vale-Lane's Sextette. We, of course, drank loyal toasts, after which Sir Arthur welcomed the guests in a short and witty speech, saying how proud he was to have so many distinguished guests from many countries, and he felt what pleasure it would have given to Miss Nightingale had she been able to look down on the gathering, meeting as they did that night in the Hospital to whose nurses' training School she had given her name. He hoped they would take back to their countries happy memories both of the Congress and the evening spent at St. Thomas's Hospital.

The National Anthem was then played, and the guests adjourned to the Nightingale Home by invitation of the Matron, Dame Alicia Lloyd Still.

Here a rare treat awaited the guests, as the Nightingale treasures were arranged for view. Pictures, books, mementoes associated with the life of Miss Nightingale, but what charmed the visitors most was the Diary written by Florence Nightingale in French at the early age of nine years, "La vie de Florence Rossignol" and was part of her lessons. This Diary was commenced in 1829, and records many things as they appeared to her childish mind. In Book I of the Diary we find recorded, "This was the birth-place of Shakespeare (our greatest poet) now a butcher's shop." Book II followed immediately on Book I, but the Diary came to an end suddenly in 1830, on the little authoress going to London, never to be written in again.

The hours slipped by as if by magic, and we had to bid farewell to the fascinating environment of the Nightingale School and the kind hosts who had welcomed our I.C.N. so warmly.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)