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MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK'S JUBILEE.

On December 7th next Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will have completed fifty years' of active organisation in connection with the Nursing Profession, and on April 1st next year sixty years will have passed since she entered hospital for training.

Several suggestions have been made by the colleagues associated with her in many activities to celebrate the occasion—a portrait, a dinner, gifts, etc.; but Mrs. Fenwick has made it known that she prefers that no expense should be incurred on this occasion. She will, however, be pleased to receive an Address in commemoration, and presumably in recognition, of the principal organisations which owe their initiation to her vision and creative faculty, which have had such beneficent results throughout the Nursing World.

1. The founding, together with Dr. Bedford Fenwick, on December 7th, 1887, of the British Nurses' Association—which later received the title of Royal—the first Association of trained Nurses in the world. The Association was founded to obtain Statutory Education and State Registration for Nurses, and received from Queen Victoria the first Royal Charter for Nurses in 1893.

The drafting, with Dr. Bedford Fenwick, of the first Bill for the State Registration of Nurses in 1903 introduced into the House of Commons by Dr. Farquharson, of Haughton, Member for West Aberdeenshire, on February 13th, 1904.

Drafting the Nurses' Registration Bill passed by the House of Lords on November 10th, 1908.

Organisation of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, and active work in the Lobbies of the Houses of Lords and Commons in support of the Bill for *ten years*, before the Government Bill received the Royal Assent on December 23rd, 1919.

2. The founding of the International Council of Nurses in London on July 1st, 1899.

The proposal to organise trained and certificated nurses in Associations connected with their Training Schools and Societies, and to unite them in National Councils which could be affiliated with the International Council of Nurses, thus bringing these National Associations into world relations.

3. The proposal in Cologne, July, 1912, to organise an Educational Memorial in honour of Miss Florence Nightingale, which later she helped to take shape under the title of "The Florence Nightingale International Foundation."

As a Member of the British Royal Commission, Mrs. Fenwick organised the British Nursing Section of the

Chicago Exhibition in 1893, for which she was awarded two Medals and Diplomas for the Excellence of Scientific Exhibits.

The foundation in 1894 of the Registered Nurses' Society for the benefit of members of the Royal British Nurses' Association undertaking private nursing, and acting as its Hon. Superintendent, which Society paid over £120,000 to its members.

The proposal to organise Colleges for the Higher Education of Nurses on Trained Nurses' Day, at the Buffalo Exhibition, U.S.A., in 1901.

The care of Greek wounded as Hon. Superintendent of the Nursing Department in connection with the National Fund in the Græco-Turkish War in 1897, and Inspector of Nursing by request of H.R.H. the Crown Princess of Greece of the Ecole Militaire Hospital, Athens, in 1897.

The Hon. Superintendence of the French Flag Nursing Corps under the Minister for War and the French Government during the Great War—and perhaps the most far-reaching, as it is the most arduous work, the editing of the first professional organ of Nursing, the *Nursing Record*, now THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, for upwards of forty years.

At the present time Mrs. Fenwick is the active President of the British College of Nurses, generously founded in 1926 by an anonymous donor.

The above is a brief record of the principal movements which Mrs. Fenwick has inspired for the benefit of the Nursing Profession. She fully realised that as a Reformer her task would be a thankless one in many instances, but did not hesitate on that account to pursue the course which she believed to be right.

It is an amazing record, only possible of accomplishment by one of rare ability, possessed of a genius for organisation, and the tenacity of purpose, to bring to fruition the schemes which her vision has conceived.

The present seems an opportune moment for such slight expression of appreciation from trained nurses as Mrs. Fenwick will allow for the many gifts she has bestowed upon them through her selfless devotion to their interests during the last half-century.

It is proposed that, together with Miss Isabel Macdonald, I shall draft the Address, which will be presented to Mrs. Fenwick, at 39, Portland Place, London, W., on the afternoon of December 7th next, when she will be pleased to welcome friends, in person, from 4 to 6 p.m.

The Address will be presented at 4.30 p.m.

MARGARET BREAY.

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