

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK'S JUBILEE.

By special request of many colleagues unable to be present at the ceremony when an Address of Thanks was presented to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick to commemorate her professional Jubilee on December 7th, at 39, Portland Place, London, we present the following report.

The meeting was informal and the Bedford Fenwick Halls were crowded with those who were in sincere sympathy with the constructive and fearless policy through which so much had been accomplished in the past half century for the uplift of the Nursing Profession at home and abroad.

Miss Margaret Breay, a close associate in the work, presided; and Miss Isabel Macdonald, the brilliant Executive Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, read the Address. On opening the ceremonies, Miss Breay read the following letter from Her Royal Highness the Princess Arthur of Connaught, S.R.N., the President of the Royal British Nurses' Association:—

Royal British Nurses' Association,
194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.
December 6th, 1937.

President: Her Royal Highness the Princess Arthur of Connaught, R.R.C., S.R.N.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick,—

As President of the Corporation, I write on behalf of all our members to convey to you their greetings and my own on this the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Association. The movement towards professional organisation inaugurated on that afternoon fifty years ago has indeed had wide developments culminating in the establishment of State Registration for Nurses and the great International Council of Nurses which unites the nurses of the world.

It must be a source of deep satisfaction to you both to feel how beneficent must be the results of that first step made towards the organisation of our profession, and it gives me pleasure to think that my aunt, the Princess Christian, showed such sincere interest in the foundation of our Association and gave to it her strong support.

With the Association's best wishes and mine,
I am, yours sincerely,
(Signed) ALEXANDRA,
President.

INTERNATIONAL APPRECIATION.

The Chairman then read the following cablegram from Newhaven, Conn., U.S.A. :—

To Mrs. Bedford Fenwick,—

With gratitude for your great contribution to International Nursing. Greetings, Congratulations, kind personal regards.

TAYLOR,
President,
International Council of Nurses.

A large number of telegrams and quotations from letters in the kindest terms were read by Miss A. S. Bryson from those unable to attend, the majority realising the occasion was one for sincere congratulation.

"The Scottish Nurses send you greetings. I salute you.—BRODIE."

"Heartly wishes and greetings for you from the members of the Berufsorganisation.—OBERIN HELENE BLUNCK, Berlin."

Miss Breay then called upon Miss Isabel Macdonald to read the Address of Thanks, which she presented with sincere feeling.

ADDRESS OF THANKS

Presented to

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,

On the occasion of the Jubilee of her work for the organisation of the Nursing Profession.

Dear Mrs. Fenwick,—

We your friends, pupils and co-workers, desire to express to you, on your completion of fifty years of unceasing and effective work for the organisation, and the higher education of the Nursing Profession, our deep admiration and grateful appreciation of your life's work for Trained Nurses, the benefit of which is felt not only in this country but in civilised countries throughout the world.

We realise that it is impossible to express how far-reaching is the influence you have exercised throughout the world by your pioneer efforts, for all that concerns the professional welfare and advancement of Trained Nurses, or how stimulating an inspiration your constructive genius has been to your colleagues in other countries striving for the same ideals.

Amongst a multiplicity of work calculated to benefit the Nursing Profession three movements, which are due to your vision and creative faculty, stand out pre-eminently.

I.

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 of Nurses, with the Princess Christian as its President, and was granted by Queen Victoria, in 1893, the first Royal Charter granted to professional women.

The drafting, with Dr. Bedford Fenwick, of the first Bill for the State Registration of Nurses, in the United Kingdom, in 1903, introduced into the House of Commons by Dr. Farquharson, of Haughton, Member for West Aberdeenshire, in 1904. Introduced into the House of Lords, on the advice of the Earl of Crewe, and the late Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson (later Lord Novar), by the late Lord Ampthill in 1908, it passed through that House without a division at any stage, but, on its return to the House of Commons, its promoters were unable to obtain facilities for its consideration from the late Mr. H. H. Asquith (afterwards Lord Oxford and Asquith), then Prime Minister.

In February, 1910, you secured the formation of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, under the Chairmanship of Lord Ampthill, composed of representatives of the British Medical Association, and important Associations of Nurses in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

During the years that intervened between that time and February, 1919, when the late Sir Richard Barnett

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