

INSPECTION OF NEW HEADQUARTERS, 19, QUEEN'S GATE, S.W.7.

Surprisingly sunny was the day in this capricious month of March which favoured the memorable occasion when the new Headquarters of the British College of Nurses, 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, were officially open to Fellows, Members and friends, for inspection on Thursday, March 30th, 1939. In this change of environment it is a matter for congratulation that Queen's Gate (said to be the finest street in London) is situated in the attractive Royal Borough of Kensington, renowned for its Museums and Educational Institutions, is but three minutes' walk from the lovely Kensington Gardens, and that the Royal British Nurses' Association as a very near neighbour will be an advantage to Fellows and Members.

A few steps lead to the portico and entrance of 19, Queen's Gate. A happy characteristic of the building is its apparent brightness, due to a sunny aspect and fine windows, and the rich coloured carpets look their best. From the hall the staircase leads to a spacious landing, flooded with sunlight from the long west window, where the eighteenth-century blue and white pottery enhanced by an array of lilies and Spring flowers stand in all their glory, on the antique hall table; another flight of stairs to the first floor is the Council Room. Here the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, supported by the Councillors, in their robes of office, welcomed a large number of Fellows, Members and friends. The outstanding beauty of this apartment is its softly tinted walls and imposing french windows leading to the balcony, and that the treasured Chippendale and Sheraton furniture looked more beautiful than ever in their new surroundings was generally agreed. Most arresting was the Silver Salver, the Sir Richard Barnett Memorial, placed in the centre of the Council Room table on which scarlet carnations gave a brilliant touch.

Greatly admired were two solid silver (of Queen Anne design) tea services, their brightness reflected in the table's surface (but that is another story to come).

Adjoining the Council Room, in a fine Reception Room, we find the Isla Stewart Memorial Library, here symbolising the heroic part this great personality played in the historic fight for State Registration of Nurses. Also in this charming room the Royal Mementoes are displayed to great advantage. The next two rooms are on the second floor, the first in which the History of Nursing Section is housed. Here Miss A. M. Bushby, Chairman of the History Section, spent a strenuous afternoon explaining history in connection with the extensive collection on view of Nightingale letters, books, medals, etc. Data also of other famous pioneers, who helped to build up the National and International Councils of Nurses, and her expert knowledge on these subjects was greatly appreciated. Adjoining this Section is the Lecture Room.

The third floor is devoted to the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's editorial office, where supreme quiet, almost unbelievable in the precincts of London and equipped after her own heart, is an inspiring background for her work. In convenient proximity is the Manager's Department of the Journal, where a delightful room is deputed for this work.

The top floor is used to house the Archives, especially of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, the arrangements of which are not yet quite completed.

A Ceremony of Gratitude.

The presentation of Silver Tea Services to Miss M. R. Angel and Miss B. A. Bowering, at 4 p.m., in a very crowded Council Chamber, aroused interest and gratitude. The President expressed her desire to perform a Ceremony of

Gratitude in presenting a Silver Tea Service each of Queen Anne design to her loyal and devoted workers. In addressing Miss Angel, she expressed warm thanks for her 24 years of efficient and devoted service, for many in connection with the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and, pointing to the cabinet filled to capacity with over 80 volumes of the Journal, said that in compiling this official organ, billions of letters had had to be passed by the human eye, and she wished to warmly thank Miss Angel for expert help in this work, and hoped she would be spared for many years to continue it. Miss Angel, in reply, expressed her very great appreciation of this most beautiful gift which she would for ever treasure, and could only say that in working with Mrs. Fenwick she always found it an inspiration worthy of her best efforts.

In presenting Miss Bowering with the second Tea Service, the President thanked her for her long and loyal service of 22 years in the Nurses' cause, stating that Miss Bowering had in clerical work served in a variety of ways for the Registered Nurses' Association, the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, and the British College of Nurses. The books she kept for the Registered Nurses' Association involved the handing over of some £120,000 to private nurses, and Mrs. Fenwick thanked her for excellent service. Miss Bowering, in thanking Mrs. Fenwick, said she considered she had been greatly privileged to work for her all these years, and she greatly valued this delightful gift.

This interesting ceremony over, all descended to the entrance hall, separating into the three ground floor rooms where tea was arranged, the members' Club Room, the Secretary's Office, and a third room much used by members giving valuable voluntary help to the College. All these rooms were filled to capacity for tea, where tea, iced coffee, cakes and dainty savouries were much enjoyed.

The profusion of beautiful flowers throughout the house were the gifts of Miss M. Breay, first Vice-President, Miss S. A. Villiers and Miss B. Treasure, Fellows of the College.

Space forbids detailing all the many comments of appreciation of the new Headquarters, and it would seem that on all counts transportation of the British College of Nurses to 19, Queen's Gate is a signal success, and we trust augurs well for a happy and prosperous future.

It is hoped every use will be made of its facilities for knowledge and friendship and for the support of the high professional standards for which the College stands.

In gratitude to the pioneers of the past their splendid service to humanity should never be forgotten. The present generation of Registered Nurses must hold sacred the honour of the pioneers, who claimed and won for them their legal status and responsibility in the body politic.

During the afternoon the following telegram was sent to Dr. Bedford Fenwick, to whose interest the British College of Nurses owed its initiation:—

TO DR. BEDFORD FENWICK,

Delighted with the new Headquarters at 19, Queen's Gate, for which many thanks. Wishing you many years as our generous Treasurer.

From the Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses.

Grant us the will to fashion as we feel,
Grant us the strength to labour as we know,
Grant us the purpose, ribbed and edged with steel,
To strike the blow—
Knowledge we ask not—knowledge thou hast lent
But Lord the will—there lies our bitter need,
Give us to build above the deep intent
The deed, the deed.

John Drinkwater.

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