

WORLD-WIDE APPRECIATION OF THE LATE MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

Tributes to the memory of the late Mrs. Bedford Fenwick have continued to arrive at the British College of Nurses, Ltd., a few of which we publish herewith:—

From Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Hon. Secretary, National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, who enclosed the following message from the President, International Council of Nurses, Dean Effie J. Taylor:—

News has reached the President of the International Council of Nurses of the death of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the Founder of the International Council of Nurses.

Mrs. Fenwick was known in every land where organised nursing is established, and her passing will be a loss to the Nursing profession throughout the world.

The sympathy of this Council goes out to her family and to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of which she was for so many years its President.

From Miss Lavinia L. Dock, Pennsylvania, an admirer for many years:—

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

Your telegram was saddening, but did not surprise me. I thank you sincerely for your kind thoughtfulness in sending it to me.

I have been expecting that death—perhaps because my own old age gives me warnings.

We have lost a great leader, a great inspirer, a great character and personality. Her influence will long prevail, and her memory be lifelike in our thoughts.

She had a long, rich and brilliant life, full of happiness, activity, adventure and initiative. I remember her visit at the Johns Hopkins Hospital when I was there; she was beautiful and full of life. I think she gave the first suggestion for a nursing exhibit at the World's Fair in Chicago. Her talk was all of things ahead, in the future, suggestive and forceful.

How well I remember her in London at our early meetings, and when I saw her in evening dress, dazzling and gracious, and with Dr. Fenwick the "Unknown Benefactor," it was all like the enrolling of a beautiful drama.

Then in Cologne where at a banquet she proposed the founding of a Memorial to Florence Nightingale. That was another great occasion.

Her life was full and complete. It is perhaps well that it has ended now. This poor old world will be an unhappy place for a long time. Cruelty has reappeared in hideous forms and war still threatens the hope of peace.

Professor Haldane says that hundreds, perhaps thousands of years will be needed for the evolution of man into true civilisation.

I hope that when that time arrives, she, who was so compassionate and protective toward animals, children, the sick, aged and infirm, will know. L.L.D.

From Miss Annie W. Goodrich, Connecticut:—

The announcement of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's death was received with keen sorrow by one of her long time friends and associates, who desires to express to Mrs. Fenwick's family, and the British College of Nurses, her deepest sympathy in their sad bereavement.

From Dean Effie Taylor, President, and Miss Anna Schwarzenberg, Executive Secretary, International Council of Nurses.

The International Council of Nurses from its Headquarters in New York extends to her family and the

British College of Nurses its deep sympathy and loss on the death of its beloved founder, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

From Miss Katharine J. Densford, President, American Nurses Association:—

American Nurses Association joins you in honouring memory of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, distinguished leader and pioneer in International Professional Organisations.

From the Canadian Nurses Association:—

Sympathy to you all. Please tell me the time and place of service, to arrange for Canadian representative. Fairley.

From Miss A. Wilkinson, President, the Trained Nurses Association of India:—

With the passing of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the Nursing Profession has lost one of its greatest leaders since Florence Nightingale, and one who fought with integrity and indomitable courage for what she believed to be right and true. Her name will be held in honour by all Nurses as a champion for the rights and status of the State Registered Nurse.

It was only the week before that I received the charming book of our "Princess Elizabeth" with the greeting sent signed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

At the Council Meeting of the Trained Nurses Association of India, the members stood for a few moments in silence as a token of respect to a great Nurse.

From Miss U. P. Fitzgibbon, Dominion President, New Zealand Registered Nurses Association:—

New Zealand Nurses grieve with you in loss of dauntless leader and friend of the Nursing world.

From Miss Bertha Helgestad and Miss Bergljot Larsson, Norwegian Nurses Association:—

The Norwegian Nurses Association sends its greetings of sympathy to the British College of Nurses, and the family of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, our pioneer.

From Miss Jane Bell, Past President of the Royal Victorian College of Nursing, Melbourne, Australia:—

On behalf of the Royal Victorian College of Nursing we wish to convey the sincere sympathy of the College to the relatives of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in their sorrow, and to the British College of Nurses.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was a woman of outstanding intellect, with the gift of foresight, which with her democratic and international outlook made a strong appeal to Nurses in the outer reaches of the British Commonwealth and to her Trans-Atlantic neighbours.

It is perhaps too early to fully assess the value of her services to Nurses and to the development of nursing. During her long life she was in a position to have enjoyed leisure and ease, but she chose the harder way of constant struggle for what she believed to be the best for the Nursing profession.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was at all times a good friend to Australian Nurses, and those visiting London in 1937, when the Australian Nursing Federation was officially affiliated with the International Council of Nurses, made very pleasant contacts with her, which have been maintained ever since. They, together with many distinguished nurses throughout the world who have knowledge of her life work, will mourn her loss, which will probably become more evident as time goes on and miss her inspiration and leadership.

From Miss Mary Roberts, Editor, American Journal of Nursing:—

Please accept deepest sympathy, Board, Directors and Editors, in passing of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, brilliant Editor and Courageous Nurse.

Many more tributes have been received from all parts of the world, including one from Miss Mary Lambie, New Zealand.

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