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## Academic Gaiety

THE first week of the College post-graduate course has coincided with a round of academic gaieties; so much so that if a lecturer failed for one instant to hold the attention one caught oneself looking out at the sky and wondering whether that garden party hat would spot if the weather suddenly turned unkind in the afternoon; whether one could rush through the neglected little order for miniature medals in time for the formal dinner later on in the week; and if it would be humanly possible to attend a committee meeting round a council table and eat strawberries and cream on a College lawn at one and the same time.

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Last week the whole academic world seemed *en fête*, and nurses, especially nurses in London, had their share of pleasant invitations. We say "nurses in London" rather than "London nurses" advisedly, for we have with us at the moment quite a number of colleagues from other lands. The ten Norwegian nurses are here with Miss Bergliot Larsson, president of the Norwegian Council of Nurses, at their head; Miss Alexander, for long the president of the South African Trained Nurses' Association, arrived a day or two after them; Miss Goodrich, Dean Emeritus of Yale University School of Nursing, and for ten years president of the International Council of Nurses, is our specially honoured guest; and last but not least we must include the students of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, who, having nearly completed their year's studies, are now so completely at home in the English language that English fêtes and garden parties have no terrors for them—but are so many preliminary canthers

before their own special garden party and certificate day at Bedford College on July 4.

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Among the London functions in which nurses participated last week must be mentioned the garden party at King's College of Household and Social Science, where so many of our sister tutors have spent a happy year of college life; to be followed by that at Bedford College for Women, the academic headquarters, as it were, of the international students. Each impresses us with the beauty of its mellow brick buildings set amidst smooth lawns, while through each, on such gala days, one wanders, to the strain of a military band, among libraries and laboratories, lecture halls and refectories which would have amazed the early pioneers of women's education. Such women had to be content with very inadequately converted private houses and a working capital so small that it could hardly be said to exist at all.

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Not least among the Colleges for beauty and dignity is our College of Nursing in Henrietta Street, partly an academic institution, partly a professional organisation. How one wishes the late Lady Cowdray could have lived to see it last Saturday, when, with the help of its twin sister, the Cowdray Club, it was the scene of a beautiful dinner to over ninety people in honour of Dean Goodrich, a dinner which Her Royal Highness Princess Alice of Athlone and the Chancellor of the London University, the Earl of Athlone, honoured with their presence.

The Cowdray Hall of the College opening into the Cowdray Club dining-room makes a fine setting for a dinner of this size, and Miss

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Leggatt and her staff are to be more than congratulated on the beauty of their tables; there were three long ones down the club dining hall with a high table for the guests of honour at the top. As one entered one's eyes were met by a sort of cloud of gypsophila, pink hydrangeas and palest pink gladioli, with yellow irises introduced down the side tables. The College Hall, where a reception for additional guests was held later, was also gay with flowers; but perhaps the most striking feature of this big gathering was the brilliance of the orders and decorations worn by the members of our own profession. No one can say that the State has not signally recognised the services of its nurses.

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The dinner, as Sir Arthur Stanley, our chairman, said, was a dinner of British nurses to honour in one outstanding American nurse the whole profession of nursing in America. No nurse has had a more distinguished career than Dean Goodrich. Superintendent of the nurses' training school at Bellevue Hospital, Assistant Professor of Nursing and Health at Teachers College, Columbia University, Director of Nurses at Henry Street Settlement, Dean of the Army Nursing School, Dean and Professor of Nursing at Yale University, President of the American Nurses' Association, and, for ten years, of the International Council of Nurses—"It is to be presumed," commented Sir Arthur, "that she did all these things in addition to her ordinary work."

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Dean Goodrich, replying to her "colleagues," said she felt that nurses who went about doing services with their hands had the "Open Sesame" to the homes of the people. There was no door in the street but was open at some time to the nurse—open as the response to a felt need; and so an enormous responsibility rested on her—and on the public too; for the public must see that the nurse was given the education to contribute her full measure of service.

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The universities of America have, of course, opened their doors more widely to nursing than have the universities of this country. It is possible that the outlook and needs of the two countries are not quite the same, yet nothing but good can come from a mutual exchange of experiences, of points of view. As Miss Goodrich herself said, for many years now the threads have been weaving back and forth between Europe and the United States. With every exchange of thought we are likely to come nearer to perfecting the vision of Miss Florence Nightingale.

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## Topical Notes

### Birthday Honours for N

SIX College members have been included in His Majesty's Birthday Honours List for 1935:—Miss Rosalind Paget, A.R.R.C., "Number Two" on the Midwives Roll, and honorary editor of *Nursing Notes*, who becomes D.B.E.; Miss K. C. Watt, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service, who becomes C.B.E.; Sister Miss C. Walker and Sister Miss M. G. Wiseman, of the same service, who receive the R.R.C. (Second Class); and Miss M. A. Aris, R.R.C., matron, Ministry of Pensions Hospital, Chapel Allerton, and Miss N. O. Smith, matron, Osborne House for Convalescent Officers, Isle of Wight, who become M.B.E. Other nurses to receive honours are Miss A. L. Charteris, matron, Bedford County Hospital; Miss N. Thompson, A.R.R.C., matron, Leavesden Mental Hospital; Miss A. E. Davis, matron, Government Hospital, Zanzibar; Miss M. Donald, senior nursing sister, Tanganyika Territory; Miss D. M. Kenny, nursing sister, Kenya; Miss M. G. Le Bas, matron, Government Hospital, Gold Coast; Miss E. L. Denton (outpost nursing), Canada; Miss R. A. Kirkaldie, matron, Children's Hospital, New South Wales; Miss M. Wilson, chief public health nurse, Canadian Department of Public Health—all M.B.E. Miss M. E. Birtles, formerly superintendent of several Canadian hospitals, and Miss S. E. Maxwell, also of Canada, receive the O.B.E.; while Senior Sister Miss N. G. Rees, Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service, receives the R.R.C. (Second Class).

### Other Honours

In a list of unusual length, because 1935 is not only the year of the Silver Jubilee but sees the celebration of the centenary of local government, we select the following for special men-