

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



Congregation for the Conferment of Degrees

15th July, 1969



DA 1/24

Presentation Addresses

Miss Grace Elizabeth Watts

presented by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine
Mr A B Pain

Your Royal Highness and Chancellor:

Our University has in the past been proud and happy to confer the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* on many distinguished people, including three members of our Royal Family, and many other important figures in all walks of life, but this is only the second time that a member of the nursing profession has been selected by us for this honour; the previous occasion was in 1932.

Grace Elizabeth Watts was educated in Canada and matriculated from Nutana Collegiate School in Saskatoon. She commenced her nursing training in 1936 at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London and qualified as a gold medallist in its nursing examinations in 1940. She held posts as Theatre Sister, Night Sister and Sister Tutor in her training School. She was a first class honours diplomate in the Sister Tutors' Diploma in 1945, and in 1955 she was awarded the Nursing Administration (Hospital) Certificate of the Royal College of Nursing with distinction in Hospital Administration, Ethics and Psychology. She was Deputy Matron at the Royal Free Hospital from 1955 to 1957, when she was appointed Matron of the General Infirmary at Leeds. She has been a member of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales from 1960, and from 1965 its Chairman, an office which she still holds. By some administrative quirk she now holds the rank of Nursing Officer Grade 10, and the time-honoured title of Matron no longer applies.

Miss Watts is very obviously in the forefront of the nursing profession and it is a matter of considerable pride to members of our University who are on the Staff of the United Leeds Hospitals that we should enrol her on our list of honorary graduates.

Your Royal Highness and Chancellor, I present to you GRACE ELIZABETH WATTS, for the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

Professor Dámaso Alonso,

presented by Professor R F Brown

Your Royal Highness and Chancellor:

It is with very deep and personal pleasure that I propose that this University should today admit to its community of graduates a Spaniard whose life and work have been extremely varied and distinguished. Since those distant days when Dámaso Alonso took his Bachelor degrees, first in Law, to satisfy Spanish tradition, and then in Arts to express his own tastes, he has become familiarly known in most of the great Universities of Europe and of Spanish and English America. Leeds he first visited in 1929. In all of them, and wherever the values of Spanish civilization are cherished, his words are welcomed, by the most exacting specialist as well as by the tyro undergraduate. Of his numerous publications, some memorable ones remind us that he held the Chair of Romance Philology of Madrid University. I recall his work on the Asturian dialect 'bable', and on the epic poems of Roland and the Cid. But he has written more lovingly of literature than of philology, and within literature, of poetry. With the apparent facility which derives from familiarity with most European languages, he has endowed us with studies of the great poets of Spain from the 12th to the 20th centuries – Garcilaso de la Vega, Fray Luis de León, Quevedo, Bécquer, Antonio Machado, Vicente Aleixandre, and many younger contemporaries. For one particular 'discovery' he is greatly honoured. Just as Cossío gave eyes to the world of art to 'see' the intense beauty of El Greco, so to a still insensitive world Dámaso Alonso revealed the sensuous profundity of Luis de Góngora. How shall his criticism be defined? It is of that sort which beguiles, refreshes and illumines the mind and the senses of the reader. The pupil rejoices in the guidance of the Master. We should perhaps not be surprised. Dámaso Alonso is also a considerable poet. Contemporary Spanish poets have been greatly moved by three of his volumes: *Oscuro noticia*, *Hijos de la ira* and *Hombre y Dios*. Years ago he edited a work of Erasmus, and made a beautiful translation of the *Portrait of an artist as a young man*. Recently he succeeded the venerable Master Ramón Menéndez Pidal as President of the Royal Spanish Academy of Letters.

Your Royal Highness and Chancellor, I present to you, as the greatest Hispanist of his time, El Ilustrísimo Señor DÁMASO ALONSO for the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*.

