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### Editorial.

#### AN INTERNATIONAL HEART.

IN this our last issue in the nineteenth century, it is well to gather up the threads of progress and to consider very briefly the chief lessons which may be learnt. We are apt to esteem lightly the period in which we live, nevertheless it is unquestionable that the present century, more especially with regard to women, has been the most wonderful one of all. We have only to study history to know it.

The characteristic stamped upon it in indelible letters is the enormous advance of Science. It is Science which is obliterating time and space, which has brought to us the telegraph, the telephone, and now wireless telegraphy. Science at whose feet we sit as reverent worshippers, and who is only beginning to whisper to us a few of her closely guarded secrets. Who can tell what wonders and delights she has in reserve for us when she reveals to her disciples those which are stored in her inner shrines? All we at present realise is that we only now touch the fringe of possibilities which are opening up on all sides, and

that the coming century will bring us revelations of which we can at present have no conception.

The practical outcome of the progress of Science so far is that the world is a much smaller place to us. With the advent of the steam engine parochialism had its death blow, the country became national in its aspirations. Now, as facilities for travel have opened up, a wave of imperialism is sweeping over us, and the next step, which the West with its fine perceptions has already comprehended, and which we must comprehend or be left behind, is internationalism. Was it a premonition of coming events which led to Miss Clara Barton's memorable message to the women of other nations at the Women's Congress at Chicago in 1893. "Clara Barton is no orator but she has an international heart."? Rather we may consider that each age has its advance guard of picked men and women whom it sends ahead over rough roads to make them smooth for the coming feet of the multitude, and to point the way ahead. The seed which Miss Barton then let fall has germinated, and our own International Council of Nurses, may be one of the first fruits.

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