

gracious words: "It is with extreme pleasure and appreciation I respond in behalf of the Congress to the cordial Buffalo welcome of Mrs. Townsend and His Honour, the Mayor, who have honoured us not only by the warmth of their reception, but by their recognition of our profession. I have additional pleasure in extending the welcome of American nurses to the foreign delegates and representatives whose presence and participation in this Congress will contribute in so marked a degree to its interest and success.

"In approaching the discharge of my duties as presiding officer of this third Congress of Nurses, I beg to express my appreciation of the generosity by which I have been called to such an honour.

"If the phenomenal growth of nursing is any indication of its righteousness then who can doubt our future? Small wonder that our pioneers, some of whom are still with us, express themselves as sometimes awed by the mighty impetus of the ball they started rolling scarcely more than a generation ago.

"To our English colleagues we of the United States owe more than we can ever repay, and if in our swift American fashion we have broken from their leading strings and made paths for ourselves, we none the less acknowledge our indebtedness with gratitude.

"Our first international gathering in Chicago in 1893 was marked very distinctly by the making of acquaintance, which sounds rather insignificant, but on second thought assumes its proper place, and we realize that it signifies a tremendous force in nursing affairs. The exchange of experiences suddenly roused many women to the fact that the deficiencies and difficulties of their work were peculiar to the whole nursing profession, and not to one school or hospital, and from that meeting originated nearly all the progress which has gone on since, in America at least, and we will devoutly hope that from this Congress as much that is good and great may come.

"Any number of the problems up for discussion then still confront us in both continents. The uniform requirements for admission to our schools, the uniform curriculum; what shall constitute a trained nurse, State registration, local and national organization, a code of ethics, and many minor questions.

"In America the extension of the training course from two to three years is nearer an accomplished fact than any other question, and while the curriculum is far nearer uniformity than eight years ago, there is still much to be desired.

"The question as to what constitutes a trained nurse seems farther from settlement in this country than at any time before. In our nervous energy and haste to embrace all things new, and

to get to the end by a short cut, we often sacrifice quality and thoroughness to speed, and in no other work is this more glaring than in the enormous increase of so-called training schools, which have neither educational nor moral right to exist. We will listen with much interest and eagerness to our foreign delegates upon this subject, for it is one of tremendous gravity to our profession.

"The establishment of a chair of hospital economics in Columbia University has been one of our most important undertakings, originating with the nurse, Isabel Hampton Robb, who has done more for our profession in America than any other one woman. The Columbia course will undoubtedly be a most valuable leaven for the whole lump, and I may say with no fear of giving offence that the superintendents themselves know better than anyone else the great need of better teachers. The organizations for nurses all over the world have developed wonderfully, and while we occasionally hear expressions of discouragement, we should not forget that we have learned much by contact, and see our deficiencies now far more than formerly.

"A topic new to the nurses of the United States since our first meeting, although an old in England, is army nursing, a huge problem undertaken here in an emergency and one in which we sadly acknowledge we have not always done ourselves credit, nor, perhaps, always given credit where it may have been due.

"An undertaking of which we are justly proud is the "American Journal of Nursing." To paraphrase our great Lincoln, 'a journal of nursing, for nurses, and by nurses,' the work of which has been entirely done, until within a few weeks, by nurses hard worked in other lines, which is a monument to the courage and devotion of American nurses.

"Again, I beg to express our thanks to our cordial hosts of Buffalo and to extend to the distinguished guests within our gates who share with us this undertaking, the hand of fellowship and felicitate them upon their achievements in our great profession."

#### THE PAPERS.

At the morning session four papers were read, which were listened to with absorbed attention by the 500 or more nurses who filled to overflowing the seats of the main floor and gallery. The chair called for discussion from the floor after each paper, and the delegates responded in an intelligent and interesting manner. "The Administration of Hospitals in Great Britain," was the subject of papers by Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, of London, and Miss Mollett, Delegate from the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

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