

national Congress of Nurses at Buffalo :—

**REPORT OF THE DELEGATE OF THE
MATRONS' COUNCIL.**

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MATRONS' COUNCIL :—

Expression of Thanks.

Before commencing her report your delegate wishes to express her official and cordial thanks to her colleagues for the high compliment they paid her in electing her to such an honourable embassy.

Keen as has been the pleasure her American tour and the Congress have given your delegate, it has not surpassed her gratification at receiving such a high token of appreciation from those who are in every way the fittest to judge both of her merits and her shortcomings. Your delegate sincerely trusts that she has fulfilled the mission entrusted to her in such a manner as to uphold the honour and dignity of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

Journey.

In pursuance of your instructions your delegate left England for America on the 29th August last, and travelling through Canada to Buffalo, arrived in that town on Saturday evening, September 14th. Both in Montreal and Toronto great kindness and hospitality were extended to your representative. In both cities she had the pleasure of visiting well equipped and well nursed hospitals, and of being shown everything that could interest her as a nurse and a Matron as far as was possible in the limited time.

Hospitality.

During her stay in Buffalo your representative was, in common with the other foreign delegates, the guest of the American Nurses during Congress week. On account of the deplorable crime which led to the President's death, public social functions were curtailed, but the business of the Congress was not interfered with, nor the private social hospitality, which was freely extended to the delegates.

Locality of Meetings.

All meetings, excepting the last farewell meeting, were held at the Woman's Educational Union, Niagara Square, Buffalo,—a building containing a large lecture hall and various Committee rooms and offices—eminently well suited for the purpose. The attendances at all the meetings, bearing in mind that they were purely professional, were extremely good, and the audiences keen and interested.

The last meeting, "Nurses Associated Alumnae Day," was held in the Temple of Music in the Exhibition grounds. It was the building that had gained a melancholy notoriety as the place where the President had been shot.

International Council of Nurses.

On Monday, September 16th, your delegate was present on the platform at the meeting of the International Council of Nurses held at 3 p.m. A very large and attentive audience filled the hall.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the Council, was in the chair.

Miss McIsaac, Superintendent of the Illinois Training School, and President of the International Congress of Nurses, the Honorary Officers, and other members of the Council, were also on the platform.

After the usual official business had been dealt with, the introductory address was given by the President, who called upon those present to unite in forming

National Councils of Nurses, organizations capable of being united into an International Council of Nurses.

The address, which was much applauded, was followed by the announcement of the names of those ladies who had been nominated to act as Honorary Vice-Presidents until the National Councils were fully organised. Extracts from reports on the present condition of nursing education and nursing organization in various countries were then read, limited time allowing of only two, those from France and Italy being given in full. All these papers, which are of great historical interest, will be included in their entirety in the "Transactions of the Council."

The public proceedings then closed, but the members of the International Council held a private meeting in the evening for the discussion of matters of business and organization, which your delegate attended.

International Congress of Nurses

The International Congress of Nurses was opened at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 18th, all the foreign delegates being present on the platform.

Miss McIsaac, the President, was in the chair, and introduced Mr. Frederic Constantine, representative of the Mayor of Buffalo, who was himself unable to be present owing to the funeral of the President.

A vote of sympathy with Mrs. McKinley in her loss was passed by the Congress standing.

Addresses of welcome to the Congress were then presented by Mr. F. Constantine and by Mrs. George W. Townsend, President of the Womans' Industrial and Educational Union at Buffalo. At their close an address was read by the President in which she referred to the first international gathering in Chicago, and enumerated some of the problems that were to engage the attention of the Congress. She expressed the thanks of all present to our hosts at Buffalo, and extended the welcome of American Nurses to the foreign delegates and representatives. Papers on Hospital Administration in Great Britain were then read by Miss Stewart, President of your Council, and by your delegate. Miss Stewart's paper contained valuable statistics and details regarding Hospital management and nursing in Great Britain, your delegate confined her remarks to the administration of English County Hospitals. Both papers were well received. Miss Banfield, Secretary to the Congress, then read a paper on Hospital Administration in America. Miss Banfield, dealt critically with some forms of American Hospital mal-administration, and her paper provoked considerable discussion.

Your delegate at this point hands in the program of the International Congress of Nurses, with the list of papers read or accepted as read for each day, feeling that her report would be unduly long if she enumerated them all. She hopes that a copy of the Transactions of the Congress will be included amongst the papers of the Matrons' Council.

The Resolutions.

Passing over, therefore, some extremely interesting papers, your delegate would draw attention to the very important resolution which was arrived at on Friday after three strong papers had been read on "Organization and Legislation amongst Nurses," by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Sylveen Nye, of Buffalo, and Miss Snively, of the General Hospital, Toronto, Canada. It runs as follows :—

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