

"Whereas, the nursing of the sick is a matter closely affecting all classes of the community in every land ;

"Whereas, to be efficient workers nurses should be carefully educated in the important duties which are now allotted to them ;

"Whereas, at the present time there is no generally accepted term or standard of training, nor system of education, nor examination for nurses in any country ;

"Whereas, there is no method, except in South Africa, of enabling the public to discriminate between trained nurses and ignorant persons who assume that title ; and

"Whereas, this is a fruitful source of injury to the sick and discredit to the nursing profession, it is the opinion of this International Congress of Nurses in general meeting assembled, that it is the duty of the nursing profession of every country to work for suitable legislative enactment regulating the education of nurses, and protecting the interests of the public by securing State examination and public registration, with the proper penalties for enforcing the same."

This resolution was proposed by Miss McIsaac, the President of the Congress, and seconded by Miss Isla Stewart, and was supported by Mrs. Robb, U.S.A., Miss McGahey, delegate from Australia, and Miss Snively, of Canada. It was carried unanimously by the Congress standing.

A resolution passed on the motion of Miss Nevius, of the Garfield Hospital, Washington, "That the Third International Congress of Nurses strenuously protests against the sending out of pupil nurses to private duty during their period of training in the training schools." This resolution was also carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the officers of the Congress, the foreign delegates, and the readers of papers, was then passed, and the business meetings of the Congress terminated.

Trained Nurses' Day.

On Saturday, September 21st, the farewell meeting was held in the Temple of Music in the exhibition grounds.

Miss McIsaac presided, and on the platform were the Mayor of Buffalo and Mrs. Diehl, the Mayoress, Mrs. John Miller Horton, Chairman of the Committee on Entertainments and Ceremonies of the Board of Woman Managers of the Exhibition, all the foreign delegates and visitors, and a number of leading American superintendents and nurses.

Addresses of welcome were then given by the Mayor and by Mrs. John Miller Horton.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick then read a paper in which she urged the higher education of Nurses, preliminary and post graduate teaching. Miss Louisa Stevenson, of Edinburgh, spoke with appreciation of the trained Nurse, and, in general, endorsed Mrs. Fenwick's views as to her education. Miss Wood followed with a characteristic speech in which she advocated professional agreement on questions of training, practice, ethics, conduct, and remuneration, and the agreement on a minimum curriculum so that when the time comes to seek legal recognition, we may present a united front. At the conclusion of the speeches the badge of your Council was presented by your President to Miss McIsaac, the President of the International Congress. The large audience were, throughout the proceedings, deeply interested and very enthusiastic.

A band was present and at the conclusion of the proceedings "My Country 'tis of thee," was sung to its accompaniment. This terminated the Congress.

General Survey.

It remains for your delegate to draw your attention to the most noticeable points in connection with a meeting which is bound to be of historical interest in the Nursing world.

The first and most striking feature was the universal, enthusiastic and steady interest that was taken in the work of the Congress by the large body of Nurses present, an interest that did not flag throughout the week, though many of them were much engaged in business matters in connection with their own Alumnae at the same time.

Secondly, the almost uniform excellence of the papers read, the subjects treated were dealt with with a surprising clearness and grasp of the situation, each one bore the stamp of an expert. The nurses in the audience too, were quick to appreciate points of peculiar interest, and to applaud any clear reasoning or good practical logical conclusion. If your delegate had to name any subject, irrespective of its vital importance, that particularly roused the feeling of the nurses present, it was the mention of the nurse training schools sending out their pupil nurses during their training to compete in the open market with graduate nurses. And it was characteristic of the logical nature of the mind of the Congress audience that it fully grasped the fact that legal registration would obliterate that with other forms of injustice. There is no doubt that the point in which the whole business of the Congress culminated was in the vote for legal registration of nurses. But whilst I think I may say all practically admitted its necessity, more than one doubted whether legislation was yet ready to undertake the work.

The advocates of preliminary training for nurses by which was meant generally a short practical and theoretical course before entering the wards, received almost universal support, as did also those who advocated post graduate nursing work in hospitals. It was much regretted by the foreign delegates and by all present that Mrs. Strong was prevented by illness in Philadelphia from reading her paper on the "Preparatory Instruction of Nurses." It was also a pity that lack of time made it impossible to discuss fully these and other important questions. Your delegate did not gather that the course in Hospital Economics at the Columbia University, had been an unqualified success, great things are however expected from it by its founders, and various Nursing Alumnae subscribe for its support.

Your delegate was much struck with the genius of the American Nurses for organization and the transaction of public business. Nothing is more characteristic of them than the Alumnae, or Associations of Trained Nurses, attached practically to every training school for nurses. These Alumnae, not unlike the St. Bartholomew's League, often transact considerable nursing business, take an active part in nursing politics, and nearly all of them sent delegates to the Congress. The natural keen interest of Americans in public affairs shows itself also in nursing matters.

The unfeigned kindness and the hospitality of the American and Canadian Nurses to the foreign delegates made their visit, apart from its Nursing Con-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)