

International Amenities.

The Reception given by the Society of American Women in London to the Nurse Delegates who attended the International Nurses' Congress at Buffalo, was a very cheery and successful function, but that goes without saying when the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack flutter in unison. It was a most happy thought which inspired this Society thus publicly to honour the Delegates, and at the same time to gain information of the scope of the Congress, and nothing can more greatly conduce to the well-being of nations than the exchange of graceful international amenities.

The charming rooms of the Society at Prince's looked very festive, with their rose-coloured walls, and dainty gilt furniture, and a profusion of beautiful flowers tastefully arranged, the large Hall in which the meeting was held was also decorated most effectively, the platform backed by the Stars and Stripes and Union Jack, and graceful palms and foliage, made an admirable setting to the semi-circle of ladies who graced the dais in most becoming gowns.

Mrs. Webster Glynes, the acting President of the Society, took the chair and presided with dignity and charm, and she was supported by Mrs. Arthur Fay, Chairman of the Executive Committee, as well as by all the Delegates.

In a few well chosen words Mrs. Glynes welcomed the Delegates, and expressed the gratification of her Society that these able women, distinguished in their own calling, had accepted its invitation and were there to give them an account of the Congress and of their visit to the States. She then enumerated some twenty-one nursing Societies in this country which were represented at Buffalo. Nursing was, she said, a subject in which all women should be interested. It entered into their lives in connection with their children and their homes, and they could not value too highly the work of those members of their sex who were devoting themselves to the study of the best methods of nursing work, and were striving to place the vocation of nursing on a professional basis. It was the part of all women to help them, so far as they might, to obtain proper training, and educational facilities.

The Chairman then read a letter from Her Royal Highness, Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, President of the Scottish Branch of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, expressing "her great regret at being unable to be present at the reception to meet the Delegates from the British and Colonial Nursing Bodies," owing to her absence from town. Her Royal Highness expressed herself as much interested in nursing work, and intimated that had it been possible she would much have enjoyed being present.

Lord George Hamilton, Secretary of State for India, whose action in appointing Miss Arkle to officially represent the Indian Army Nursing Service at the Congress was much appreciated by the Organising Committee, wrote that he very much regretted that his engagements did not allow him to be present, as he "would greatly have liked to meet the Delegates," and Mrs. Joseph Chamberlain also wrote saying how sincerely sorry she was not to be able to meet the Delegates, and "hear their account of the work accomplished at Buffalo. My connection," she said, "with the Colonial Nursing Association makes me glad to hear what goes on in the nursing world."

Mrs. Glynes then called upon Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, whom she described as "President of the International Council of Nurses, late Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, who has taken a leading part in the organization of the profession of nursing" to address the meeting, on the "Benefit of International Co-operation between Nurses."

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said: We are privileged to be on this platform to-day in our capacity of British Delegates to the International Congress of Nurses held recently at Buffalo. The program of this great gathering of nurses provided for the discussion of nearly every branch of nursing, to attempt therefore in one short afternoon to touch even cursorily on the different questions with which the Papers dealt would be impossible, your Executive have therefore arranged that we should each speak upon the particular subjects with which we were personally associated at the Congress.

It is my good fortune to be allotted the somewhat comprehensive subject of the Benefit of International Co-operation amongst Nurses, and I hope to arouse your interest in the organised factor for such co-operation—The International Council of Nurses—what the society has already accomplished, and what we hope it will do for the nurses of the world in the future.

To be frank, I am one of those optimistic beings who has focussed the millennium! I have faith that the cool white Power of Reason, will ultimately triumph over red brute force, and I know of no more efficacious method of arriving at this desirable condition of affairs, than that the peoples of the earth should come into personal contact, and that hand in hand they should visit their national shrines—no two peoples can remain for long estranged who exchange thought in the tongue of Shakespeare and know their Stratford by Avon—or who have together realised with what reluctance the "Minute man" took his hand off his wooden plough and raised his musket, or who have together passed through the shades of Arlington. sacred ground where thousands of headstones mark the last resting places of the Republic's soldiers. In a flash all the preconceived prejudice of a life time is swept away, the War of Rebellion becomes known to one as the War for Independence, and it is thus that we find after all the international bogies of our youth are merely stuffed with straw.

By a happy chance in 1892 I found myself a guest at the Johns Hopkins Hospital at Baltimore, where I spent a few days in close communion with those two remarkable women, Isabel Hampton and Lavinia

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