

Dock, enthusiasts in all that pertains to the organization and progress of our special work. In our discussions the fact became immediately apparent that we had each much to learn, and yet something to teach. Ah! I thought, what a noble profession nursing might become, if we nurses could come into personal touch, and absorb all that is good of the finest intelligence and the highest conscience from the many noble women at work in the lands where the care of the sick is already a skilled vocation!

Thus the seed of international co-operation amongst nurses was sown. Years passed—seven years—and it was not until 1899, during the meeting held in London of the International Council of Women, when many Foreign and Colonial nurses were our guests, that we defined our aspirations and formed the International Council of Nurses, and prefaced our Constitution with the following preamble:—"We nurses of all nations, sincerely believing that the best good of our profession will be advanced by greater unity of thought and sympathy of purpose, do hereby band ourselves in a confederation of workers to further the efficient care of the sick, and to secure the honour, and the interests of the nursing profession."

It goes without saying that American nurses were in warm sympathy with this progressive movement, and Great Britain and Ireland, Canada, Australasia, New Zealand, Germany, Denmark, and, I am proud to say, Holland, have accepted office in the Society,

May I now be permitted to accentuate the practical value of international co-operation amongst nurses?

Nursing is a young profession—to be accurate it is not yet a profession at all, and its more active spirits in every country where it ranks as a skilled vocation are earnestly desirous of combining the units into a forceful whole—they are conscious of the necessity for more sisterly feeling, and a keener professional spirit—so that with some unanimity they may define the basis of nursing education, some standard of theoretical and practical training, and obtain some form of legislation for nurses—thus to protect the sick from untrustworthy attendants, and also protect the interests of efficiently trained nurses. These are all questions of international importance, at least so think the officers of the International Council, and its first work has been to call together the great gathering of nurses in the United States, and to provide facilities for discussing all these points. The Congress has come and gone, and I think all those who attended it are conscious of its marvellous stimulus, even if they have not all realised the coming of its wonderful aftermath.

The questions with which I was requested to deal at the Congress were presented in two papers (1) on The Organization and Registration of Nurses and (2) on The Higher Education of Nurses. In the former I had the opportunity of advocating a scheme of organization based on the suffrage of the graduate nurse; by such a system each nurse, as she gains her certificate of training becomes eligible for membership in the League of her Training School, these Leagues are associated together in a National League of Certificated Nurses, and in conjunction with the National Association of Matrons, form a Federation of Nurses, or National Council, which by delegation is eligible to enter the International Council of Nurses. It is significant that American Nurses alone are at present

so organized, and are thus quite ready and willing to take their place in the Council of an International Society. One of the happy results of the Congress for which I earnestly hope is that our British delegates will be sufficiently impressed with the American genius for organization, and the professional power and prestige which union gives, that they will go and do likewise. A beginning has already been made.

The happy result of a plea for legal status for nurses was the unanimity with which the five hundred nurses present voted for a Resolution in favour of State Registration of Nurses which defined "that it is the duty of the nursing profession in 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."

My second paper contained a plea for the Higher Education of Nurses—our training schools do not, nor do I think they ever will provide a complete system of education for nurses—even when the training schools have systematised their teaching there will still remain functions in relation to the education, discipline, and status of the trained nurse which will not come within their jurisdiction.

To enumerate our most pressing needs we require preliminary education before entering the hospital wards. We need post graduate teaching to keep in the running. We need special instruction as teachers to fit us for the responsible positions of Sisters and Superintendents. We need a State constituted Board to examine and maintain discipline in our ranks, and we must have legal status to protect our professional rights and to insure to us ample professional autonomy.

As a result of this paper, the International Council is forming a sub-Committee to deal with the all-important question of Preliminary Education for nurses. Tentative systems are already being tried at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, at the London Hospital, at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, and at the Waltham Hospital, where each system is quite different. At Glasgow the pupils are externes and learn in classes, at the London the pupils are received into a residential home, apart from the hospital, at Johns Hopkins the pupils are received into the hospital Nursing Home, and take out a six months' course in domestic science and elementary theoretical instruction. I do not think that any of these systems will be widely adopted, as some of them add considerably to the hospital expenditure—the solution will no doubt be found in the organization of Central Schools for Preliminary Education in populous centres, where a thoroughly efficient curriculum could be carried out at the expense of the pupil. Anyway this is a very live question, and one well worthy of international consideration.

Again, international comparison in the nursing systems for sailors and soldiers has been helpful; every true patriot is fully determined that "Jack" and "Tommie" shall have medical treatment and nursing of the best. I am inclined to think he does not get them. The Nurses of both hemispheres have been wrestling with this important matter for years past, and I had the honour of reporting to you, when your guest on a previous occasion, that Congress had passed a Bill

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