

The papers touching on private nursing showed that the remuneration for private nurses is much higher in the States than in England. Twenty-five dollars (£5) per week is the average fee in the large cities whilst those in the smaller cities range from eighteen to twenty-one dollars, and as much as thirty-five dollars per week is paid for the nursing of infectious and other special cases, male nurses in New York being paid at this high scale of remuneration. It appears that, as with us, private nurses work about nine or ten months in every twelve, and although they receive much higher fees than we do, it is doubtful in the long run whether they realize any greater gain, for one must take into consideration the enormous difference in the price of clothing between the two countries, and also the fact that we have the advantage of being well supplied with nurses' hostels where rooms need only be taken temporarily and at a far cheaper rate. Further, American nurses do not receive any allowance for laundry, and this is rather a serious item of expense, often amounting to more than a dollar a week, as white uniforms are much worn, and also, as a result of great heat for many months in the year, washing gowns are much in vogue for general wear.

Co-operations of private nurses are unknown in America as organised in this country.

Graduate nurses undertaking private work are generally connected either with Directories or clubs.

By the former system the nurses remain somewhat in touch with their Training Schools, as they register their names and addresses at the hospitals in which they graduated and obtain their cases through those institutions.

The Superintendent of Nursing has the management of sending out the nurses—work which is honorary.

The nurses are not required to make any recompense to the hospitals for the benefits they thus derive.

The clubs not only take the place of our hostels as homes for nurses between their cases, but are also centres of work, calls for the nurses' services being addressed there. Judging from one of the clubs in New York, the nurses enjoy comfortable and refined homes in the club-houses, and they usually pay a fee of ten dollars (£2) on admission to membership; a yearly subscription of ten dollars, and two and a-half dollars per week for a bedroom, or share of a room, the latter being a regular payment all the year round.

Meals are charged for according to a fixed scale. The clubs are self-supporting, and secretaries are employed.

Neither the directories nor clubs are in any way responsible for the collecting of the nurses' fees, that matter resting entirely with the nurses.

The following important resolutions were passed during Congress:—

1. "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 easily between trained nurses and ignorant persons who assume that

title; and, whereas, this is a fruitful source of injury to the sick and of 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."

2. "That the delegates and all visitors to this Congress having a deep appreciation of the benefits and pleasures they have derived from these meetings, desire to express their gratitude to all officers and committees for the excellent arrangements made for the meetings of this Congress. Also to all who have given of their time in the preparation of papers and addresses, which have been of such great interest and instruction. They also desire to express the pleasure this assemblage has had in welcoming the foreign delegates. They feel that the coming together of the most distinguished members of our profession in England and her Colonies and in Europe, with those of this Continent, has been productive of most unusual stimulation, which we trust will result in good and effectual work."

3. "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."

There was a spirit of zeal displayed all through the Congress and interest in the transactions never for one moment flagged. The whole tone was progressive and inspired hope for a better organization of the nursing profession in the future.

A final meeting, open to the public, was held in the Temple of Music in the grounds of the Pan-American Exposition on Saturday, 21st September. It was, indeed, a day of consummation and a grand termination of the International Congress; the greatness of the building, and the vast concourse of people assembled, being only in keeping with the rousing appeals of the speakers for a more efficient standard of nursing education.

Delegates to Buffalo will ever remember the extreme cordiality extended to them by everybody with whom they came in contact, both in Canada and the United States.

SOPHIA CARTWRIGHT.

A REGISTERED NURSES' LEAGUE.

The Hon. Superintendent then brought forward a motion: "That a League of Registered Nurses be formed on Alumnæ lines." This having been seconded by Sister Lidyard,

Mrs. Fenwick said that the strongest impression which had been conveyed to her mind during her late visit to America was the wonderful kindness of spirit which permeated the whole American nursing world, and these sympathetic relations undoubtedly resulted from the fact that the nurses in the States were organized on a professional basis, and came into personal contact—in 1893, the date of her last visit to the States, there was practically no organization of the nursing profession in America, and now the whole country was covered with a net-work of societies,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)