

international relations. American nurses owed much to their British colleagues, and they were proud to join heart and hand with them in furthering the cause of Internationalism.

#### THE BUILDERS.

Miss Amy Hughes said she felt the responsibility of the toast which devolved upon her—"The Nursing Profession." She might compare the profession to a stately building being raised by women's work all over the world. We were sometimes denied the right to call it a profession, but, profession or calling, its outline was now distinct. Many of the makers were in the room; the question was how to bring the parts together, to make the building perfect. It was a grave responsibility. We must look forward to the building as a whole when complete. Such a gathering as the present was productive of great good. Half the difficulties of organisation were overcome when people got to know and trust one another. Things needed so much explanation. Complaints were sometimes heard of apathy, indifference, carelessness. She thought the chief difficulty in the way of progress was ignorance. It was necessary to begin with the A B C, and show that the responsibility of a nurse's life was not just doing her ward work well; she had obligations as a member of a profession, she must understand the duties of citizenship. We were not as wide awake to these as they were in America. In the one branch of nursing in which she was specially interested, that of district nursing, a knowledge of these duties was most requisite. A nurse needs more than mere hospital training to make her efficient; she must be acquainted with housing, economic, and sanitary problems, and Miss Hughes appealed to Superintendents to see that the hospitals did not turn out nurses who were merely clever machines.

Neither did private nurses fully realise how much the honour of the profession depended on them, how they might introduce the right tone and feeling with regard to nurses into a house, or gain for trained nurses the reputation of unmitigated nuisances. Briefly, they must awake and realise their citizenship.

Those who, unfortunately, were unable to go to the Congress at Berlin might fulfil their public duty by educating other nurses and the public at home. She must say, in conclusion, what a pleasure it was to welcome our American sisters.

Miss Sanborn said she fully endorsed all that former speakers had said. The number of their party was smaller than they expected, but each woman of it was loaded with five times her share of love for this beautiful country. She thanked those present sincerely.

Miss Isla Stewart then announced, to the evident gratification of the English guests, that the Prime Minister had that afternoon, in the House of Commons, stated his intention of appointing a

Select Committee to inquire into the whole nursing question.

Much of the success of the day, on which Mrs. Spencer is heartily to be congratulated, was made possible by the generous gifts of the following ladies who were unable to take part in the pleasurable gathering:—

Lady Lumsden, Miss Louisa Stevenson, Miss Rosalind Paget, Miss Catherine J. Wood, Miss Gibson, Miss Hannaford, Miss J. A. Smith, Miss Ambler Jones, Mrs. Grimsdale, Miss Pinchard, Miss Annie Brown, Mr. Wates, Miss Alexander, and Mrs. Rudolph Smith.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Mrs. Turnbull, Miss Peter, Miss Roberts, and Miss Hughes also sent contributions, and the Matrons' Council, the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, and the Registered Nurses' Society guaranteed handsome donations.

### British Medical Association and the Registration Question.

The Council of the Association, some weeks ago, referred the Nurses' Registration Bills, which we published in our columns *in extenso*, to the Medico-Political Committee, who presented the following Report to the Council. It was decided to take no action in the matter for the present. The following is the official Report of the Committee:—

The minutes of the Emergency Sub-Committee of February 19th were received; the following Memorandum, prepared by instruction of that Sub-Committee, was approved and directed to be forwarded to the Council:

#### MEMORANDUM ON NURSES' REGISTRATION BILLS.

The Medico-Political Committee has had under consideration two Bills aiming at providing a system of State Registration of Nurses, which are referred to respectively in this Memorandum as (A) and (B).

(A) has been prepared, and is being promoted in Parliament, by the Association for the State Registration of Nurses.

(B) has been prepared, and is being promoted in Parliament, by the Royal British Nurses' Association.

The Medico-Political Committee begs to submit, in the present Memorandum, particulars of the said Bills and certain considerations in relation thereto for the assistance of the Divisions in their discussion of the matter preparatory to a declaration by the Annual Representative Meeting of the opinion of the Association upon (a) the general advisability of the State Registration of Nurses; and (b) the provisions of the schemes which have been framed for this purpose by the two Societies named.

#### I.—PARTICULARS OF THE BILLS.

1. Objects: The *objects* of the Bills are identical, namely:—

(a) To promote the training of nurses, and secure that the sick shall be able to distinguish between the qualified and unqualified.

(b) To protect the knowledge and skill of the trained nurses,

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