

To accomplish anything we shall find that we must stand alone, alone from beginning to end. We must be all in all, not to ourselves, but for ourselves.

The majority of people resent individuality; their vanity objects to any deviation from the conventional. They object to progress because they lack vitality, and in competition are surpassed.

It is a saying of Miss Mollett's that "all progress is strife to the end," and many women, delicately nurtured, and of a sensitive temperament, object to strife, and leave it to the physically stronger sex; they are disinclined to hurl themselves into contentious work, which is therefore left to the few who take their courage in both hands and dare to stand alone.

Moral Courage, which is certainly its highest form, is a virtue of which women have displayed their full share; but I am not inclined to attribute this entirely to a love of truth, but partly to their ignorance of the results which follow its display, and of the unhappiness and persecution to which reformers in all ages have been subjected.

Looking back over the last twenty years, I am not quite sure whether, if I had been better able to gauge the results of my actions, I should not have hesitated, before entering on the campaign of nursing reform, of subjecting myself to intimidation, insult, and persecution. I hope it would have made no difference, but I cannot be sure.

It is a very inspiring thought to those engaged in the work of nursing organisation to remember that the whole work of nursing reform has been the work of women. Those of us who can look back for a quarter of a century remember the nursing in our hospitals in a very different condition from that which obtains at present. It was not until cultured women with a high sense of duty and possessed of exceptional courage entered hospital wards, that, in the face of enormous obstacles, method, order, and refinement were introduced, and the atmosphere purified physically and morally.

At the last meeting of this Council I said a few words on the subject of work, and I must confess myself to-day perfectly satisfied with the result of the labours of the members all over the world since that occasion. They have done well. I give you for our watchword for the next Quinquennial Period that of Courage, and I have not the slightest doubt that, bearing it in mind, we shall be able to accomplish all that our hearts desire.

Maybe we shall not be called upon to endure in the future as we have been in the past. Indeed, I am inclined to believe that nurses have won their battle, the right to think and judge for themselves, to help and govern themselves.

Let us, then, as professional nurses, stand before the world banded together for the benefit of humanity to perform work for the community, not only palliative but preventive—in

short, let us try to leave the world in some slight degree better than we found it. Until our next meeting—COURAGE.

#### GENERAL REPORT.

The General Report, presented by the Hon. Secretary, Miss L. L. Dock, was as follows:—

Since the meeting of the officers of the International Council of Nurses, held at Buffalo, U.S.A., in September, 1901, the President has been in constant communication with the Hon. Officers and Hon. Vice-Presidents of the Council.

*In Great Britain.*—Miss Isla Stewart, Hon. Vice-President, has done much to encourage co-operation amongst trained nurses by the active part she has taken as President of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland and of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, and it is gratifying to report that the Matrons of several important training-schools have stimulated the desire for co-operation amongst the nursing staffs, and taken the initiative in helping them to form Leagues for professional and social intercourse. Miss Stewart is in favour of strengthening the bonds of union amongst certificated nurses by affiliation between the Leagues, which would bring the nurses of the various schools into touch by co-operation, and thus upon a wide and liberal basis, founded on the graduate vote, enable nurses to meet and discuss, in a helpful manner, their professional and social affairs, out of which co-operation it is hoped that a National Council of Nurses for the United Kingdom may in time be evolved on thoroughly representative lines—Scotland and Ireland forming branch or national councils if so inclined.

With this end in view, Miss Stewart recently called a Conference in London of Delegates from the self-governing Leagues and Societies. The meeting unanimously resolved that it was desirable that National Councils of Nurses be formed, and recommended the formation of a Provisional Committee of delegates from the Societies represented at the meeting with a view to affiliation with the International Council of Nurses; the formation of a National Council to be considered when the number represented by delegation amounted to 5,000.

*In Scotland and Ireland.*—In Scotland, co-operation amongst nurses is practically non-existent, but an influential committee has recently been formed, upon which several prominent nurses have seats, with the object of promoting State Registration of Nurses. No doubt by this means nurses will be educated as to their professional interests and duties, and will learn to appreciate the benefits of co-operation.

In Ireland, the Matrons of the leading hospitals and nursing institutions have, during the past year, initiated the Irish Nurses' Association, of which several hundreds of certificated Sisters and nurses have already become members.

*In the United States of America.*—In the United States of America the nursing profession is effectively organised on co-operative lines, and two great national societies of nurses—the American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses, and the Nurses' Associated Alumnae of the United States (that is a society of affiliated Leagues)—have come together by delegation and formed the American Federa-

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