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**Editorial.**

**FEDERATION DAY.**

In June of last year the American nurses who were present at the meeting of the International Council of Nurses in Berlin expressed themselves cordially in favour of the affiliation of their national society, the American Federation of Nurses, with the International Council. They could not, however, take any formal step until the matter had been submitted to the Annual Meeting of members.

The two societies composing the Federation—the American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses, and the National Associated Alumnae of the United States—met in Washington, during the first week of this month, for their Annual Conventions, and, as we have already announced, these two societies arranged that Wednesday, May 3rd, should be observed as "Federation Day," both societies meeting on that day to discuss the question of "International Relationships."

The result of their deliberations has now been communicated to us by Miss Mary E. Thornton, the Hon. Secretary of the Nurses' Associated Alumnae of the United States, and is that the decision taken is to affiliate with the International Council of Nurses. This means that every leading Matron and nurse in the United States is in favour of forging the bonds which will unite her with the nurses of other lands, and is a decision upon which not only American nurses, but the whole nursing world is to be congratulated.

The British, American, and German nurses, who have now affiliated, number some 8,000 members, an excellent nucleus for the International Council; and already we hear of other countries who are hoping to affiliate at the next Quinquennial Meeting. Each will bring an individual contribution, which will be of special value to the Council as a whole; and there seems to be every reason to hope that the seed planted in 1899 will grow into a goodly tree.

There is, indeed, no profession in which friendly international relations are more desirable than in that of nursing. For in connection with her work the nurse knows no distinction of race, colour, or creed, nor is the passport to her services the worthiness of the patient, but simply and solely his need. In this service of humanity, therefore, the nurses of the white races are proud to join hands with their colleagues in Japan, whose work is the admiration of the world at the present time, with the Eurasians nursing in the hospitals of the great Indian Empire, with the Africans to whose deftness and devotion many Europeans are indebted even for their lives. All these we may hope will in time enter into definite relations with the International Council of Nurses. Meanwhile, those who are members of the Council know how much even in its early days they have gained from intercourse with one another.

Do not both British and German nurses owe much to such women as Miss Lavinia L. Dock, who has made for herself so warm a place in the affections of nurses of both nations, and who has been so helpful to them in the critical stages of organisation through which they are now passing, that they are loth to let her return, after a prolonged absence, to the land of her birth, but scarcely to the land to which she belongs; for with her broad sympathies on nursing questions, and her genius for friendship, she has made us realise that she belongs to the nursing profession at large, and that we may all claim a share in her sympathy and her work. We have also learnt much from the brave band of workers in Germany, who, headed by Sister Agnes Karll, are striving to obtain for the nurses of that country that freedom of action which is their undoubted right.

There are other nurses in other countries with whom intimacy would be both pleasurable and profitable, a fact which should stimulate us to forward the work of the International Council of Nurses to which our American sisters have brought so splendid a contribution.

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