

## The Opening of the Conference.

MORNING SESSION.  
TUESDAY, JUNE 18th.

When the officers of the International Council of Nurses arrived at the Musée Social before nine o'clock on the morning of Tuesday, June 18th, it was to find a crowd of nurses already surrounding the doors, and by 9.30 there was not a seat to be had in the Hall, which was crammed to its utmost capacity.

The Conference was opened by M. G. Mesureur, the Director of the Assistance Publique, and President of the Conference, and supporting him on the platform were Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Hon. President of the International Council of Nurses, Miss Isla Stewart, Hon. Vice-President for England, Dr. Anna Hamilton, Hon. Vice-President for France, Mme. Alphen Salvador, M. Mirman, M. Navarre, M. N. P. Strauss, M. Felix Voisin, Dr. Lande, Administrator of Hospitals at Bordeaux, Vice-Presidents of the Conference, and other distinguished public men.

M. MESUREUR.

M. Mesureur, who was very warmly received, said:

Madam the President, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—I declare this third International Congress open.

It is to me a great honour and a great joy to preside at the opening of this Congress. It is also a great honour for the Administration which I direct that those interested in the progress of the art of caring for the sick have felt that the Director of the Assistance Publique of Paris could not remain a stranger to the Sessions which you are going to hold, to the discussions which will take place, and to the progress which will result from these discussions.

I salute the devoted, the distinguished, and the *élite* women who have come from such distances. I salute my countrywomen who, in their turn, salute you and your distinguished President. Few people know what hard work it has meant to organise this Congress, but they can imagine that the work of organising a gathering such as this has been difficult, delicate, and laborious, and we cannot render too much homage to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who has already initiated two others—the one of Buffalo in 1899 and that of Berlin in 1904, and now this one in Paris; to her not less distinguished collaborator, Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Secretary, to Miss M. Breay, Treasurer, and to the group of remarkable women who have aided her in her work in the furtherance of science and of humanity.

Allow me also to thank our compatriots, M. Felix Voisin, President of the Conseil de Surveillance, M. le Docteur Lande, Member of the Conseil Supérieur of the Assistance Publique and Administrator of Civil Hospitals at Bordeaux, and our gracious compatriots, the Baronne James de Rothschild, Mme. Alphen Salvador, and Mlle. Chaptal, who have introduced a French note into this Re-union.

Ladies, the profession you have chosen is a noble one; every woman feels and thinks that she can nurse her own, but nursing requires a special systematic training, and not an accidental one, for it is a complicated work necessitating training in the nursing of women in childbirth, in the fight against tuberculosis, and in all the complexity of other diseases. We wish to make the career of a nurse an honoured and respected profession. Both nurse and midwife have their place by the side of the physician and surgeon, and it should be officially recognised. It is the most beautiful work a woman can take up. We French people, we Parisians, salute you. We thank you for having associated us with your work, and we have come to take useful lessons for which we shall always be most profoundly grateful.

M. Mesureur then extended a cordial invitation to all members of the Conference to a reception at the Hotel de Ville by the Municipal Council of Paris, after the afternoon Session, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, in translating this invitation into English, said that she was sure everyone present would appreciate the honour of the invitation.

The subject for discussion on this first morning was—

### THE MODERN NURSING MOVEMENT IN FRANCE.

We print in full the paper by M. Mesureur, and give now brief abstracts of the other papers which will appear at length in the Transactions of the Conference.

### THE WORK OF THE ASSISTANCE PUBLIQUE FOR NURSING EDUCATION.

By M. G. MESUREUR.

My friend, Dr. Bourneville, with the great experience which 30 years devoted to hospital training has given him, will tell you presently of the considerable efforts made by the city of Paris to ensure for its hospitals the help of capable and devoted *Infirmières*. I will not break into his subject, and my words will be few.

I shall only try to recall the (too often unhappy) attempts made by the hospital administrations of Paris to establish a body of lay *Infirmières*, and to remedy the difficulties of recruiting their ranks, difficulties the

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