

Impressions of the Conference.

Much as we had hoped and expected from the Conference of Nurses at Paris, the reality has flown so far above our fondest hopes that the impression left on my mind is quite indescribable. A sensation of uplift and buoyant hopefulness, encouragement and gratitude for all the good and noble forces that are at work animating humankind is the predominating emotion through which one recalls the details of our week in Paris. How many splendid personalities we have been privileged to know! How much of unselfish effort on behalf of suffering humanity we have been enabled to see that was unknown to us, before we came here, and how inspiring it has been to find strangers turned into friends, and to meet with fellow feeling, a comprehension of our ideas, and a sharing of our very experiences, in those with whom, a week ago, our paths had never crossed. Perhaps the most wonderful part of it all has been the extreme cordiality of the recognition given us by the Municipal Council of this beautiful City and by that Department in charge of all the City Hospitals and City Dependents—the Assistance Publique, under whose direction all the hospital nursing of this vast city is carried on. For in this most winning and fatherly kindness and courtesy we have felt that the dignity of our calling was being recognised and honoured with a special emphasis and public ceremonial, and the thrill of the thought that it was because we were nurses, and because of what our work and services meant in the world can never be forgotten, but will always remain green and fresh in our memories.

L. L. Dock,

Hon. Sec., International Council of Nurses.

What a wonderful thing an International Congress is! To have been in Paris in these last few days will leave an impression for the whole of one's life. It would not be easy to find again such a representative circle of splendid women giving all the best of their life and strength for the finest profession a woman ever can follow, if she is not the head of a family of her own. And all these women, coming from the farthest ends of the world to further the welfare of their professional sisters, and by that means the welfare of all mankind in illness and sorrow! One felt like standing on holy ground. I am sure every one of our German nurses did feel the grand meaning of it, although a good many of them did not understand French and English, and so could not follow the splendid reports of the work from all parts of the world. But all of them will carry home a deep impression of the strength of unity between members of a profession. They have seen the eager faces, the light in so many eyes, heard the storm of applause, when those came to the front, who are well known to most by the amount of work they have done for the whole community. Such Con-

ference days are very tiring, but the charms of "la belle France" made one forget that very soon, and we all hope that our wish to help this beautiful country in the struggle upon which it is entering for better conditions in our calling may be the reward for all the kindness and splendid hospitality extended to us in such a cordial way. All these earnest, busy men, who came to join in our first morning's meeting, and greeted us with such hearty words in their beautiful Hôtel de Ville, the Salpêtrière, and other places, will not quite forget what they heard of our work, and will try to see our points, and begin reforms in time. Our splendid banquet gave us the best means to tell them personally how in our countries the same conditions existed not so long ago, and how we changed them by putting educated girls into the work, such an astonishing thing to French people. It was wonderful to see all the beautifully dressed women at the banquet, and to know how arduously they all work in hospitals all the year round, and do their best to further good social conditions in all countries. Our congresses will always afford the strongest opportunity of making the population feel that nurses are the real social missionaries, and that they try hard to become better equipped every day for their exacting and wonderful life by an interchange of all their knowledge and interest through a Society which in time will embrace every civilised country.

AGNES KARLL,

President, German Nurses' Association.

I cannot allow another hour to fly (and they fly so fast here, alas!) without a word of my impressions of this Conference, held in the midst of the most beautiful and fascinating surroundings in the world. That it has been a supreme success there can be no manner of doubt, and that its results will be far-reaching, is equally certain. It is easy to perceive the impulse given already. One could not but feel at each Session that the Hall was pulsating with the vigour and enthusiasm of the many noble women who have gathered from all the progressive countries of the world (with the usual utter disregard of the sacrifices necessary) in order that they might aid by their presence, and by their often powerful eloquence, the cause which all have in hand, and at heart, the exaltation of the Nursing Profession all over the world.

To those who are now nearing the close of their working days, it has been a great pleasure to see and hear the vigour and ability with which their younger Sisters told of the continuous progress of their work, and urged their views, with brilliant eloquence.

What can I say of the continual delight this beautiful Paris spreads before our eyes, as we pass through the magnificent Boulevards, those exquisite gardens with their profusion of blossom and foliage, in the midst of the finest architecture, which, perhaps, this world can show,

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