

## International News.

## A NOBLE GIFT.

DEAR MRS. FENWICK,

As the "History" that Miss Nutting and I have been working at (it has taken a long time to get it through the press, and the final plate proofs are only now coming in) will soon be off our hands, we have given some consideration to the third volume, which must deal with the history of the last thirty-five years. I recalled your wise suggestion that our branches in different countries (national branches of our International) might assist in gathering data for this third volume, as much modern history in nursing exists only in the records and memories of our organised workers.

We hope to be able to secure this co-operation, and to present a faithful picture of the progress of our modern nursing army, and, as this will throw considerable work upon the shoulders of our co-workers, we have agreed together that this book should be sold for the benefit of the International Council of Nurses, so that all will, indirectly at least, have a return for the share they have made to it. Who knows but that we might, sometime, have international prizes, or scholarships, or exchange of lecturers? And at least we will need, some day, a paid secretary to hold the office at Headquarters, and conduct an international bureau. We think that if our third volume is printed by some good printer, on contract, and not sold through a publishing house, but through our Headquarters, and if even a tithe of the young nurses yearly coming out of training schools will buy it, we should have a very respectable income for International use. Do you not agree with us? We will ask the continental journals to copy this notice. Miss Lanschot-Hubrecht has already gathered material for us, and we will only add that there is no instant rush, for I doubt whether we will be able to work at No. 3 for a year or more. We might count on completing it within the next two years, but hardly sooner, and perhaps it will take three.

As ever yours,

L. L. DOCK.

In our next issue we propose to deal with the important contents of this letter. In the meanwhile, a thousand thanks for a noble gift.

Baroness Mannerheim—the President of the Finnish Nurses' Association, and Matron of the Kirurgiska Sjukhuset at Helsingfors—took all our hearts by storm when she spoke, at Paris, of the work of our nursing

sisters in that wonderful country, where men are so brave and strong that they welcome the equality of women. We know, therefore, our readers will welcome the news that Baroness Mannerheim has accepted the invitation of the Executive Committee of the International Council of Nurses to act as Hon. Vice-President for Finland until such time as the National Council is affiliated to the International body.

In thanking Miss Dock, the Hon. Secretary, for her letter, she says:—

"Of course, I am happy to represent my country in the International Council, and very glad and proud to have been elected to take my place in it by women, whom, of all the people in the world, I am most proud to know and to have met during those never-to-be-forgotten days in Paris. Will you, please, dear Miss Dock, transmit to the Executive Committee my very best thanks for the kindness shown to my country and to me.

"Those days in Paris! I don't think you can quite realise what they meant to me, who had been struggling all alone, knowing in a kind of vague way that I was one of a great army. And then, to find myself suddenly surrounded by friendly faces, grasping kind hands reached out to me, and hearing names long known and dear to me, and knowing, at last, I, who had begun to doubt, that the road I had taken was a good one, that the pass-word was the same for all of us.

"I really think now that the new courage and new energy I have got must last me at least for the next two years until we all meet again."

We also announce with pleasure that Baroness Mannerheim has accepted our invitation to become a collaborator on this Journal. In her kind reply she writes:—

"Thank you very much for wishing to hear from this little corner of the world. I shall be delighted to give all the information I can, and am very proud to number myself among the collaborators of your Journal, which I am reading with the greatest interest.

"We are now contemplating starting a paper of our own this autumn. You see the effects of the Congress giving new courage and enterprise."

Sister Agnes Karll writes from Germany:—

"If I only could find words for what I feel in my heart for you all, who have been so kind to me in England. I doubt if I should have strength for the coming fight for nursing re-organisation in Germany had I not heard on the very soil of your historic struggle in England. I will need the remembrance of it all sorely through the time to come, but you do not know with what hope and courage it has inspired me.

"Courage" was our international watchword given at Berlin, and it is, indeed, proving an inspiration to all the dear, brave women who are devoting their lives and their wonderful abilities in every country for the betterment of mankind. What splendid results it will enable us all to record at our next meeting.

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