

Of all classes of women the trained nurse is least tied and bound by environment. Sick humanity in the past, and now, in addition, how to prevent sickness, is her universal sphere of action. Truly it has been said that there is no nationality in nursing. Metaphorically she should fly around, oblivious of geographical and spherical boundaries. Wherever she alights there, ready to hand, her work awaits her—need of the sanitary law, eugenics, home making, child tending, and mind training. Always—always first, prevention of injurious environment, then body building. All to have a sufficiency of earth, air, fire, and water, elemental human rights. Then unceasing war on human greed, body maiming, and spirit crushing, through wealth worship. Also, if disease creeps in, and accidents happen, every nurse must possess fundamental knowledge—theory and practice hand in hand, fine trained skill, mental and manual, so that, trained, wonderful, indispensable, she may outpour of her treasures all the time—it matters not *where*.

Why not encircle the world with the sympathetic touch of such a Sisterhood?

"Let us do it," I said to Isla Stewart. "Let us," she answered, in her buoyant way.

So it came about that when the International Council of Women held its Quinquennial Meeting in London in 1899, the Spirit of Internationalism was in our midst. We invited its presence, and at the annual meeting of the Matrons' Council, at which foreign nurses were present, I proposed "That steps be taken to organise an International Council of Nurses." The resolution was seconded from the chair by the late Miss Isla Stewart and unanimously adopted.

The constitution as adopted was prefaced by the following Preamble:—

"We, nurses of all nations, sincerely believing that the best good of our profession will be advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy, and purpose, do hereby band ourselves into a confederation of workers to further the efficient care of the sick, and to secure the honour and the interests of the nursing profession."

Realising that professions, like nations, can only flourish by the development of the individual sense of corporate responsibility, the first aim of the International Council of Nurses was, through the affiliation of National Associations adopting graduate suffrage as a fundamental principle, to organise nurses all the world over and make them articulate. Rooted in the graduate vote, the nursing tree branches into Leagues and Alumnae Associations, blossoms by delegation into National Councils, inclusive of Superintendents' and Nurses' Associations, the ripe fruit of which is seen in the work of the International Council of Nurses—in time to be composed, we hope, of the delegates of national associations from every civilised country in the world.

The decisions arrived at in general assembly by a body of nurses so constituted, and representative of all shades of opinion, must necessarily receive consideration and respect. Ultimately, no doubt, the International Council of Nurses will become the deliberative assembly, and supreme court of appeal of the nursing world.

The movement has surprising vitality. In thirteen years the International Federation will be composed of the nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, the United States of America, Germany, Canada, Holland, Denmark,

Finland, India, and New Zealand in the precedence in which they have affiliated. Its inspiration has, however, gone far, far further afield. The Cologne Congress will be attended by fraternal delegates from Australasia, Africa, and Japan, France, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, Belgium, and Sweden.

Is it not wonderful?

Now I know why, though not how it was I sat alone all those hours waiting for the coming of one of the world's most spiritual teachers—May Wright Sewall—on that summer's morning in Chicago—so many years ago.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

### THE FUTURE.

The International Council of Nurses now also includes the National Federation of Belgian Nurses, the National Association of Italian Nurses, the Norwegian Council of Trained Nurses, the South African Trained Nurses' Association, and the Nurses' Association of China, and it is hoped that the nurses of other nations may apply for affiliation and enter the International Federation at its forthcoming Meeting at Helsingfors in July next.

The International Council of Nurses has a glorious future of usefulness before it. Inspired by a sense of professional responsibility, singleness of purpose and devotion to mankind, there is no limit to its future sphere of beneficence.

### SOME PIONEERS IN THE MEDICAL AND NURSING WORLD.

We have always greatly admired the wonderful Chinese Nation, and it has given us extraordinary pleasure to receive from Miss Gladys E. Stephenson, S.R.N., President of the Nurses' Association of China, a copy of her book published under the above title.

In her Foreword Miss Stephenson tells us that "this little book has been compiled in response to a request for some brief sketch of the beginnings of medicine and nursing for the use of Chinese nurses. Only a few biographical sketches are here given, but they have been chosen as some of the most outstanding of the pioneers to whom the modern nurse owes so much. The story of the devotion and noble service rendered by the pioneer nurses, who blazed the trail for others to follow, is one of intense interest, and cannot fail to inspire the nurses of China as it has inspired nurses of all nations. Our work to-day rests on the firm foundations which these heroic nurses so nobly laid."

We shall refer again to this book; in the meantime it rejoices us to know that the nurses of China desire to know something of the pioneers in the medical and nursing professions. How many nurses of other nations have made a request for such information?

At the same time Chinese nurses have their own pioneers, and are making their own history, and included in the book is a brief history of Miss Lillian Wu, the first Superintendent of an N.A.C. Registered School under Chinese management.

The National Association of Nurses of China have elected Miss Wu as a delegate of their Association to the meeting of the Grand Council of the I.C.N. at Helsingfors, and having ascertained that her expenses will be about £300 are setting themselves to raise this amount.

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