

of her Master's name and birthright to be otherwise than affectionate and respectful in the hour of his poverty and his need." It is this thought which will always deliver you from the danger of regarding a patient as a mere case for the exercise of your skill, and fill you with that true Courtesy—the soul of Chivalry—which will treat each single sufferer with the honour due to his mere humanity and the considerateness due to his separate personality.

Gathered together in this great Christian Church you will remember the Source from which there may come to this supreme motive of your work a new nobility and power. To the Christian the service of humanity is inspired and ennobled by the remembrance of that Divine and Human Servant who once in time came forth and is ever in spirit coming forth from God to give Himself in saving service to all His brethren who share with Him the human nature which He took upon Him. You will remember his own familiar words: "I am in the midst of you as He that serves." In your service He is at once your Leader and your Comrade. For a main and constant part of His Ministry here on earth was just your ministry of healing. He went through the towns and villages of Palestine "healing all manner of sickness and diseases among the people." What He did in the flesh He still does in the spirit. It is His Spirit which inspires and guides the patient toil of research, gives insight to the physician, courage and sureness of hand to the surgeon, patience, skill, and tenderness to the nurse. It is wrong to separate physical and spiritual healing as is sometimes done. We are indeed learning more and more of the healing power of the spirit fortified by faith. But in all physical healing the Divine Spirit of the Christ is ever present dividing His gifts severally to His fellow servants as He will, and this whether or not they may be conscious of His Presence with them. Believe me, He Himself will be with you though you may not see Him in all the deliberations of your Congress. Yet it is when this association with Him is consciously realised, and reverently remembered, that your calling of Nurses will rise to its full height of honour and devotion.

Nay, we may dare to go further and deeper. In one of the most profound of His words Jesus said "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren ye have done it unto Me." So completely has He identified Himself with the whole of our human nature that He bids you believe that He is Himself present not only with you when you tend the sick but within the sick whom you tend. In serving them you are also directly serving Him. "One of the least"—that rough workman stricken down by accident, that child taken wondering and perplexed into the hospital, that poor mother suffering the pains of childbirth in her overcrowded home—yes: and there also though unseen the Son of Man.

Consider therefore, my dear sisters, the height of your calling—to be the Servants of Humanity, to fulfil your service as fellow-servants with its Redeemer and Lord, to be able to make your very simplest act of service the offering of a reverent devotion to Himself. Wherever you may be serving, in the hospital or in the homes of the people, in this or other lands, may His example be before you, and His Spirit within you, so

that you may "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called."

At the conclusion of the sermon, the great congregation rose and sang with heart and voice the hymn beginning—

"Praise my soul the King of Heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring."

THE THANKSGIVING.

The hymn finished, the congregation remained standing and together repeated the Thanksgiving' beginning:

"We praise and bless Thy Holy Name, O Lord, for the life and example of Florence Nightingale, and all other Thy servants inspired by her Spirit of Service, who are departed hence from us, with the sign of faith, and now do rest in the sleep of peace." . . .

At the end of the Thanksgiving the congregation knelt to receive the Blessing pronounced by the Archbishop, and then slowly dispersed, some passing out by the great West door, while many left by the doors leading to the Crypt from the North and South Transepts, and so passed out of the Cathedral past the Florence Nightingale Memorial, which has an honoured place among those of the great ones of the earth.

So those who had participated in this memorable service separated for awhile, each aware that she had been privileged to share in an event of historic importance and in the dedication of the coming Congress to the service of mankind. M. B.

CAPITULAR HIGH MASS AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL.

Capitular High Mass was celebrated at Westminster Cathedral, on Sunday, July 18th, at 10.30 a.m. A Special Address was given by His Grace the Archbishop of Westminster, and there was a crowded congregation, as the International Council of Catholic Nurses' Associations had held a Congress in London during the week, and seats had been reserved for nurses attending both Congresses.

AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK.

We feel our readers will realise that it is an impossible task to attempt to report the work of the great International Congress of Nurses, which has so recently taken place in London, in the space at our disposal this month.

We have, therefore, been content to place before them an outline of its scope, relying upon the comprehensive programme we helped to compile and edit for details of the sections—its social amenities—of great value in such a gathering—and the reports of the General Session of the Opening Meeting, on Monday, July 19th; the great Social Event on July 21st, when new countries were admitted and the first Florence Nightingale Oration was delivered; and the Meeting of Farewell on Saturday, July 24th, when we realised that the most comprehensive Congress organised so far, in connection with our International Council, had run its course, and that those who had honoured Great Britain by attendance would now go forth and carry its message throughout the world.

In future issues we hope to draw attention to the principal lessons to be learned from the Conference.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)