

A PAGE OF NURSING HISTORY.

1912—THE MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS AT COLOGNE— AN EDUCATIONAL MEMORIAL IN MEMORY OF MISS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, PROPOSED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

THE BANQUET.

The Banquet held in the splendid gold and white ballroom of the Hotel Disch on the evening of August 7th, was a most brilliant social event, and will never be forgotten by those privileged to be present. Never before had a banquet organised by women been held in Cologne, but certainly it will not be the last. Over 350 guests assembled, and when Sister Agnes Karll took her seat at the high table—supported by the officers and delegates of the International Council and members of the Hospitality Committee—she looked upon a most bright and joyous scene. The gold and white decorations of the beautiful room—the tables laden with exquisite pink roses, the window-ledges bright with bouquets presented to her by representatives of the National Councils—the gay company and enlivening strains of music—all combined to produce just the tone of colour and sound, inspiring in the highest degree.

In Germany it is the custom to make speeches between the courses and, rising early in the evening, Dr. Rusack said that the opinion was sometimes expressed that in the Rhineland the modern woman was not appreciated, but the contrary was the fact. In Rhineland women had done serious work for their sex, which he attributed partly to the proximity of the University of Bonn, which attracted women students. Women with an aim in life knew how to claim their independence, to which everyone has a right. Dr. Rusack concluded by a reference to the debt of gratitude owed by the International Council of Nurses to its Presidents.

The next speaker was Dr. Hecker—who won for himself so warm a regard from Congress members during the week—who said that although formerly victories in war were won by individual courage, now they were won by generalship. He congratulated the Council upon its generals. The Congress Badge presented to him by Sister Agnes Karll had, he said, given him more pleasure than medals won in battle. He took it to mean that he now belonged to the nurses, and honour as well as duty compelled him for the future to fight in the good cause. He concluded by offering a toast to "the generals."

Dr. Paul Jacobson said that if all the nurses were like those present he thought there would be very little illness. He expressed his good wishes for an *entente cordiale*, first between doctors and nurses, and secondly among nurses themselves.

Sister Agnes Karll, referring to the acceptance of the Presidency of the Council by Miss A. W. Goodrich, asked the American delegates to convey to her the pleasure which her decision had given to the Council. She also expressed her thanks to all those who had come from so far to attend the Congress, and read the list of the twenty-three nationalities included in its members, all of whom she hoped to meet in San Francisco in three years' time. She also warmly thanked

the City of Cologne and the women of Cologne for all they had done for the success of the Congress.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Founder of the International Council of Nurses, expressed her pleasure at the great success of the Congress, and in thanking the President for her work, not only for the German Nurses' Association, but for the nurses of the world, offered for her acceptance, on behalf of the British nurses present, including those of Canada, India, New Zealand, and South Africa, a beautiful bouquet of pink roses. She also, on their behalf, expressed gratitude to the ladies and gentlemen of Cologne for the splendid reception accorded to the members of the Congress.

THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEMORIAL.

Mrs. Fenwick went on to say that all the splendid vitality characterising the members of the Congress must not be allowed to evaporate, but should be utilised for some practical purpose, and after consultation with Miss Nutting and others, she had the honour now to propose that at the Cologne Congress steps should be taken to institute an Educational Memorial to Miss Florence Nightingale. Miss Nightingale was above all nationality, and belonged to every age and every country. She was endowed with the genius to realise that nursing must follow scientific medicine as its handmaid in its responsibility for the health of the people.

To fulfil this great mission aright, those who practised nursing must be adequately equipped; and her proposition was that the nurses of the world should co-operate to found an Educational Memorial to Miss Nightingale, which would secure high standards of health for the peoples of the world. It was peculiarly appropriate that the proposition, which she hoped would commend itself to those present, should be made at Cologne, near Kaiserswerth, where Florence Nightingale came to learn the fundamental principles of the art which she afterwards practised and taught for the benefit of humanity.

Sister Karll, in thanking Mrs. Fenwick for her kind personal words, expressed on behalf of German nurses high approval of the proposal made by her.

Miss M. A. Nutting said that she had no hesitation in answering for American nurses—not any. No one for a day could withhold their support to a proposition for the endowment of an educational memorial in her honour—a real memorial to Florence Nightingale could take no other form; and it should be founded in England, the country where Florence Nightingale lived her life, and where she left her greatest memorial.

Miss M. A. Snively, as one of the Foundation Members of the International Council of Nurses, and a past President of the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses, expressed her complete sympathy with the proposition. She believed that a memorial educational in its nature, was one which Miss Nightingale would have approved. "Pioneers pass, but leave behind them a world transformed out of the resemblance to that on which they opened their eyes."

Miss Verwey Mejan, a Dutch delegate, also spoke; and Miss Lütken, of Denmark, expressed the thanks of Danish nurses for their "perfect reception."

Miss Creighton, after thanking the Council for the reception accorded to the Indian delegates, said, on

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