

was most complete, and specimens of work done, wet sections, bones and transparencies, is well worthy of a visit. A display of chemical appliances, and an exhibition of the development of the microscope, were very interesting to those on science bent.

The Nursing Congress—a section of the Hospital Congress—takes place next week, after which I will forward a full report concerning it. Great disappointment has been expressed that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Miss de Pledge, the delegates of the Royal British Nurses' Association to the Representative Woman's Congress, were unable to prolong their visit to Chicago and attend the Nursing Congress, especially as the news has already reached Chicago by cablegram of the Incorporation of the Nurses' Association by Royal Charter. This will be a stimulus for American Nurses to co-operate in order to obtain legal status from the United States Government, as the system of utilising Nursing labour for gain, in some of the American Hospitals, is slowly and surely creeping in. The sooner therefore American Nurses associate themselves together to nip in the bud this pernicious system, the easier will be their victory. It is a significant fact that the Royal British Nurses' Association was the only body to send Nursing delegates to Chicago, to the Congress of Representative Women, and much regret is being expressed that the American Nurse Training Schools were in no way represented at this truly interesting Congress.

The speeches made by the Women Royal Commissioners at the opening of the Women's Building are to be printed in pamphlet form—beautifully illustrated and sold for the benefit of the permanent Woman's Building, which it is proposed to erect in Chicago, after the closing of the World's Fair. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's words—acknowledging the gratitude of British Nurses to Her Royal Highness Princess Christian for the untiring and devoted manner in which she has laboured for their recognition by the State—will be widely circulated, and will speedily bear good fruit in this country where the feeling amongst trained Nurses is strongly professional; so, that to Princess Christian must be awarded the honour of initiating reform in the constitution of nursing as a profession, even far beyond the limits of the British Empire. Mrs. Fenwick's memorable words were as follows:—

“There is not time on this great day to speak further of the talents and successes of my eminent countrywomen; enough has been said to show that they are in the front rank of all work conducive to the honour and glory of their country and of their sex.

And yet there is one name which love has engraved upon every English woman's heart—that of Helena, Princess of Great Britain and Ireland, a name which is synonymous with us for everything which is graciously good and true. I feel sure she would wish it to be known what a sincere and personal interest she has evinced in the success of this magnificent exhibition, and as President of the Ladies' Committee, how untiringly she has worked so that the British women's exhibit should be worthy of a place in your beautiful Woman's building. It is to the initiative of Princess Christian that many of the most advanced movements of reform for the improvement of the condition of her countrywomen are due. But it is in connection with the profession to which I have the honour to belong—that of the trained Nurse—that in this connection she stands pre-eminently forth.

To Florence Nightingale, the Lady of the Lamp—and I mention her name with reverence—must be awarded the signal honour of being the first woman to place the nursing of the sick on a scientific basis, and the sick of all nations owe her, therefore, a debt which they can never repay. But it is to “Our Princess” that the trained Nurses of the Empire owe their deepest and most lasting gratitude for having, by years of arduous and untiring labour, lifted them as a class from the bonds of servitude, and placed them by the inestimable grant of State recognition in the high and honourable position of professional women. The progress which Nursing has made within the last decade is typical of the rapid advancement which our women are making in every department of the British Empire, and when it is recognised that Nursing is a field of labour in which there is no rivalry of sex, it will hardly be grasped that it is only within the last twenty years that women have had any authority in the management relating to the care of the sick in our public hospitals. And it was not until their fitness for this most feminine occupation was slowly realised, that the many and glaring abuses which existed in the conduct of these institutions showed any improvement. Pyæmia and other septic diseases with their fatality and terrible suffering existed and persisted, despite men's efforts, and although the surgeon with his innumerable anti-septic lotions claims the credit of the decreased death-rate from these enemies, it was not until women—highly cultured and devoted women—stepped forward with their simple implements of warfare—the dirt brush and the duster, and the resulting of cleanliness and order, that the noisome germs of disease and death lost their mastery, and it became recognized, as it is to-day, that it is cleanliness—

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