

membered that this will be the first occasion upon which our work has received public recognition, as one of world-wide usefulness and interest, by being included amongst the other arts and crafts in which mankind engage. This is the first opportunity which has been afforded to Nurses of seeing and comparing, at one time, the varied appliances in use in different countries, to secure the self-same end—the care of the sick. And it is impossible to avoid the reflection that thus this coming World's Fair seems to rise to a higher level than its predecessors, inasmuch as it will do what they have never attempted. It will not only show what the nations are doing in arts and sciences, manufactures and commerce, what advances they are severally making in the means of acquiring wealth, and even in the methods of destroying life, but it will exemplify what women in different lands are doing in a more noble mission—in the cause of humanity—in the relief of sickness and suffering.

There is yet another aspect of the Exhibition which demands attention. Having been requested last summer by my colleagues to visit Chicago, in order to make the arrangements which were necessary for the various departments of British women's work, and finding that it was proposed, in conjunction with the Exhibition, to hold conferences of workers in many professions and trades, I was enabled to take part in the organisation of the first International Nursing Congress, which will be held in Chicago next June. It is probably needless to emphasize the importance of this fact to Nurses, either from an historical or from a more practical point of view, because the value of conferences of those who are working for the same ends is universally recognised, as is shown by the annual meetings which are held in most countries, to consider questions relating to various trades or callings. And it should not be forgotten that, by means of such conferences as these, the foundation principles upon which most vocations are severally organised, were originally fixed and determined. So it will presumably be conceded that the time is now ripe for decision to be taken upon the basic rules by which the education and the work of trained Nurses should be guided. To the attainment of this most desirable consummation, the interchange of views, and of the results of their practical experience, which will certainly take place at so important a gathering of representative Nurses, from different countries in the Old World and the New, must necessarily give the greatest impetus.

Leaving, however, the future to disclose the

immediate and the ultimate results of this Congress, it may be very pertinently asked, at once, What have British Nurses to learn from their fellow workers in other countries? With our insular habit of thought it is, on the one hand, our custom to depreciate ourselves, and, in the same breath, to believe inwardly that no other nation can equal us in any work to which we devote our hands and hearts. It is, therefore, widely assumed that in Nursing matters we have little to be taught by our fellow workers in other countries. It would be better to reserve this opinion until we have seen the exhibits and learnt the experience which others may describe at Chicago this year. Of one thing I feel convinced, and it appears to me to be so important that I would lay some stress upon it. We shall find amongst American Nurses, as a class, a much better and higher *professional* feeling than prevails in this country. If I were called upon to briefly summarise the difference between the position of Nurses in the United States and in this country, truth would compel me to say that in the former, Nursing is looked upon as a profession, while in the United Kingdom it is really treated as a trade. To prove this, let me briefly sketch the career of a Nurse in both countries. In America, in order to become a Probationer, a woman must prove that she has been well educated, and into most of their leading Hospitals only gentlewomen are admitted. As a Probationer, she finds her position well defined and well secured. She is treated as a reasoning being, desirous of undertaking arduous and responsible duties, and she occupies the position of a pupil in a Training School, of which the Matron of the Hospital is the principal. The Hospital promises her an education in return for her services in tending the sick in its wards, and it never occurs to the Managers that they might profitably combine commerce with charity, and make money for their Institution by sending out their pupil as a private Nurse for outside families. Nor, indeed, if such an idea entered the minds of the governing body, is it probable that the Nurses themselves would submit to be so exploited. Finally, when their education is complete, the Nurses combine, in most large cities, under professional control, to obtain employment, and receive their own fees, through Trained Nurses' Registries.

How widely different is the system in force in many Hospitals in this country, although in many others, happily, Nurses are as well treated as anywhere else in the world. But it is common knowledge that, in some Institutions, preference in the acceptance of Probationers seems to be given to

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