

humanity in man apart from this Christ-spirit of invincible kindness, passionate enthusiasm, and tender bravery, which deems the most poor as demanding most care, and the most sin-cursed as needing the most love. That this Divine spirit has been displayed by those who do not call themselves Christian is quite true; also that many calling themselves Christian have not displayed this divine spirit is also painfully true; but that only goes to prove that Christianity, *i.e.*, the spirit of Christ, is not a dogma nor a formula, nor scientific teaching about spiritual ideas, but the true inwardness of love of God and man, which compels us to holiness, mercy, and unquenchable hope. Not Greece, in her palmiest days, when her national ideas were highest, sent her loveliest womanhood into the depths of human poverty and despair to rescue the perishing, care for the dying, mother the orphan, and smile healing pity into the bruised hearts of miserable sinners.

Not Rome, at her princeliest, ever educated and endowed the consecrating of her "comfortable" daughters to the service of the dirty and neglected scum of slavery in alley, and galley, beneath the Roman eagle.

But to-day, the whole tendency of law, literature, art, philanthropy, and science is to recognise the supreme fairness between man and man, and the indomitable kindness that the spirit of Christ inspires in proportion as we yield ourselves to its guidance.

There are certain women who stand to us as beacon-lights on the hills of compassion; each one a Christ because animated by the Christ spirit; and among them, in more modern days than the saints' calendar covers, are such women as Sarah Martin and Elizabeth Fry, who took their beauty and goodness to the service of the lowest prisoner in cell or dungeon; Florence Nightingale, who drew a train of the fairest spirits, among women like herself, into the unwomanly horrors and hardships of war, so that the dying soldier might share in the universal birthright of motherly ministrations and comforting; Agnes Jones and Eva Mc'Laren, who laid all that wealth, beauty, education, and social position could give them, at the feet of the vermin-laden tramp, and drink-deformed failure in our largest workhouse infirmaries; Mrs. Josephine Butler, and others filled with the self-same Christ spirit, who placed a wealth of grace and charm, intellect and culture, at the service of that once most loathed, scorned, and persecuted human quarry—the outcast woman.

Why, if the chronicle could be written of the Nurses who have died like sentries at their post,

both in and out of our Hospitals, and whose labours for the sick, among whom their life was spent, were illumined by the inner glory of the high vocation wherewith they were called, no roll-call of the heroes on our battle-fields could outnumber them, while for them as never for the soldier, it could be said. "They came, not to kill, but to save," and "for the least of these, my brethren." No! Christianity—that is the indwelling of the Christ-spirit—is the essence of the life and perfection of the human race; and unhindered by the isms and the ologies, the misconceptions, and even deceptions, that have intruded on its working, it is leavening the kingdom of sickness and sorrow so effectually that the best of all that is best in brain, body, and character, is being demanded for the sacred profession of Nursing, and sectarianism is bound to give way before the deep strong movement of religion.

And the Nursing Congress at Chicago—the intention of which is to give utterance to the highest thought of the day on Nursing—is one of the manifestations of how Christianity was worked, is working, and will work for the transmutation of human failure into divine success.

The Chicago Congresses.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I beg to enclose you a copy of a letter sent to me by Mrs. Charles Henrotin, the head of the "Woman's Branch of the World's Congress Auxiliary of the World's Columbian Exposition." I hope you will be good enough to find space for it in the columns of your valuable paper, and that it will arouse the cordial interest of your readers in the work of the Congresses, the success of which, I feel sure, is already assured, owing to the great ability of Mrs. Henrotin.

May I also take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks, and also that of my colleagues on the Sub-Committee on Nursing, to all those ladies who have helped us to organise the Nursing Section for the World's Fair—making it, as it will be, a national and truly representative exhibit—and for the numerous promises which I have received of contributions of Papers for the Nursing Congress. The perfect harmony with which the work has been accomplished, and the courteous reception and letters which have been accorded to us, from all parts of the Empire, have made the arduous undertaking a work of very great pleasure and satisfaction, proving conclusively that, left to ourselves,

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)