

Praise Him for His grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise Him still the same as ever,  
Slow to chide and swift to bless.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like, He tends and spares us,  
Well our feeble frame He knows;  
In His hands He gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Widely yet His mercy flows.

Angels in the height, adore Him;  
Ye behold Him face to face;  
Saints triumphant, bow before Him,  
Gather'd in from every race;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

*All kneeling, the Choir sang*

God be in my head,  
And in my understanding;  
God be in mine eyes,  
And in my looking;  
God be in my mouth,  
And in my speaking;  
God be in my heart,  
And in my thinking;  
God be at mine end,  
And at my departing.

**The Blessing.**

**The National Anthem**

God save our gracious Queen,  
Long live our noble Queen,  
God save the Queen!  
Send her victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us;  
God save the Queen!

The choicest gifts in store  
On her be pleased to pour,  
Long may she reign.  
May she defend our laws,  
And ever give us cause  
To sing with heart and voice  
God save the Queen!

Among the many distinguished members of the Nursing Profession present, one saw the Matrons-in-Chief and Ex-Matrons-in-Chief of the Naval, Military and Air Force Services, nursing officials of Government departments, Matrons of important London and Provincial Hospitals.

A contingent of Chelsea Pensioners came too, to honour the memory of that pioneer of modern nursing who journeyed to the Crimea to succour the sick and wounded in 1854.

We would pay tribute to the singing which was led by the United Hospitals' Choir under the direction of Colin H. Ratcliffe, Esq., throughout this beautiful and inspiring Service.

The Executive Secretary of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and her helpers are to be congratulated on the arrangements so smoothly carried through, which made this profoundly moving Service possible and worthy of the great whom we rejoice to honour.

## The Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

*As the article concerning the first step to form the National Council of Nurses, which appeared in our April issue, aroused great interest among many nurses, we herewith publish the next steps to be taken in this great work.*

All good things come to those who wait. We, who have felt the inspiration of cordial professional relations, and mutual goodwill with our colleagues across the seas, who realise that the present age is an age of combination, and that we must think and act in communities if we are to do so effectively, have waited with what patience we could muster for the fruition of our hopes—namely, the affiliation of some central body in this country with the International Council of Nurses.

Friday in last week saw the fulfilment of the desire which has animated some of us since the great International Congress of Women was held in London in 1899, when we learnt the strength of the International Bond which has "lifted women of many nations, many creeds, many tongues, many walks of life, out of their former isolation into a fuller, freer atmosphere." We have longed ever since to see the same principle applied to our own profession, and, to the more ardent spirits amongst us, five years has seemed a long time to wait. We have been confronted by the difficulties of which Mrs. May Wright Sewall, President of the International Council of Women, spoke when she supported the formation of an International Council of Nurses at the Matrons' Council meeting in 1899. "I wish to speak," she said, "of certain difficulties that we must face in order that we may overcome them, and while my friends are either kind, or unkind, enough to imply that I may fly—and flying is not practised—while they walk, and that is the accepted method of locomotion, I will say that I see nothing that is not entirely practical both in the International Idea itself, and in this application of it."

We in this country cannot be accused of flying. We have walked soberly every step of the way, hand in hand with those of our colleagues who prefer the more usually-accepted method of locomotion; but at last, through the organisation adopted in April—the Provisional Committee of a National Council of Nurses, formed of delegates of Nurses' Leagues and self-governing societies of nurses—we have considered and accepted the invitation of the International Council of Nurses to affiliate with it, and, through it, with similar societies of nurses throughout the world.

**MEETING OF THE PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE, 1904.**

On Friday, November 25th, the members of the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses of England met at 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Miss Isla Stewart, Hon. Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses, presided, and delegates of every society represented on the Provisional Committee were present, viz.:—

- The Matrons' Council.
- The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.
- The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses.
- The League of St. John's House Nurses.
- The League of Chelsea Infirmary Nurses.
- The Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League.
- The Registered Nurses' Society.

Mrs Kildare Treacy, Lady Superintendent of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution, who had come over from Dublin, attended as the representative of the Irish Nurses' Association.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Miss Stewart said:—

LADIES,—When we last met, on April 8th, it was with the object of forming a Provisional Committee which might act as the Intermediary between the nurses of this country and the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)