

of international force. The Countess of Aberdeen, President of the International Council, is fortunate in having obtained the co-operation of the able women who, as the Committee of Arrangements, have for the last six months almost exclusively devoted themselves to organizing the Congress, with the result that there is every prospect of a phenomenal success. The programme demonstrates that the names of readers of papers and openers of discussions include the flower of womankind, both from a personal and intellectual point of view, from all the world over, and that the subjects of which they will treat comprise almost every branch of work, including such different subjects as Education, Professions, Legislative and Industrial Questions, Political and Social Work, so that the influence brought to bear in all these branches will be enormous.

It is impossible to write at this time of the International Council, pregnant, as it is, with yet undeveloped possibilities, without calling to mind, and expressing, our obligations to those who inspired the movement, and in so doing we most gladly acknowledge that this great Society was originated and brought into being by American women. We owe to Mrs. Cady Stanton, whose daughter is taking part in the present Congress, Mrs. May Wright Sewall, and Miss Susan Anthony—the history of whose lives has been already presented to our readers, and who are also with us—the conception of the International Idea, and we feel sure that the privilege of meeting these great women will be estimated at its true value by Members of the Congress.

The value of international co-operation in all branches of work is great. In our desire to learn from all sources the best methods of work, insular prejudice must of necessity give way to a wider and fuller conception of our obligations, and of the interests which we have in common with our sisters in other lands. Again, in the present position of women before the law, in most countries the opportunity afforded to women by international conference of extending to one another all the sympathy possible is of no small moment. And in no branch of women's work is international co-operation more needed, or more beneficial, than in the nursing world. It is time that we enlarged our borders, that the various units working in solitary places, and powerless as single individuals, were consolidated into an organization forceful for the good of their profession.

## Annotations.

### THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

THE present occasion is an opportune one for drawing attention to the aims and objects of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, as it is largely owing to the initiative taken by this body that the work of the International Council of Women has been brought before the Nursing Profession.

The Matrons' Council was founded on November 1st, 1894, at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Miss Isla Stewart, who has from its inception been the Chairman of the Society, presiding.

#### OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY.

The objects of the Council are:—

- (a) To enable members to take counsel together upon matters affecting their profession.
- (b) To bring about a uniform system of Education, Examination, Certification, and State Registration for Nurses in British Hospitals.
- (c) To form an Advisory Committee to which Members can apply for counsel in cases of professional difficulty.
- (d) To hold Conferences to discuss subjects of professional, and also of general, interest.

Women who are, or have been, Matrons of Hospitals, and Superintendents of Nursing Institutions, who are trained nurses, are eligible for membership.

This Constitution attracted to the ranks of the Society many of the most earnest-minded of the Superintendents of Nurse Training Schools in this country, and the steady increase in the numbers of those joining it, as its existence, and its objects become more widely known, is a matter which cannot but be regarded with satisfaction by the officers of the Council.

The Matrons' Council is indeed the greatest hope of the Nursing Profession in this country at the present time. Organized on much the same lines as the American Society of Superintendents for Nurses, with which Society its relations have always been of the most cordial nature, the Council at present offers the only opportunity to Superintendents, which exists in this country, for their professional co-operation. It is therefore regarded and cherished by those who form, and implicitly

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