

she had charge of the large Army Hospital at Camp Wykoff during the late Hispano-American war. Mrs. Norrie, of Denmark, opened the discussion by advocating the formation of a volunteer corps of women trained in the elements of nursing, who should be available to work under the direction of trained nurses in times of stress and emergency. She was followed by Captain Norton, M.P., who, in a well reasoned speech, argued that the sick soldier was entitled to receive nursing care when ill, equal to that attainable by the civilian, and demonstrated that at present it was impossible for him to obtain this care. After others present had taken part in the discussion, it was closed by the Chairman in a few apt and appreciative remarks.

LETTER FROM MISS NIGHTINGALE.

When the meeting again assembled for the afternoon session the Countess of Aberdeen took the chair, and read the following letter addressed to the nursing profession from Miss Florence Nightingale, which was received with much applause:—

DEAR NURSES—VERY DEAR NURSES,—Thank you, thank you for all the progress you have made in these last years. May God bless you—and He does bless you. You should be the salt of the earth, for such opportunities are yours. Such opportunities with your patients, without saying a word of preaching, for showing in your practice what a woman should be. And that every year should show this feeling more and more, is the earnest prayer of

Your affectionate and grateful friend,
FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

As Mrs. Hampton Robb, of the United States, was, unhappily, unable to fulfil her intention of being present at the Congress, her paper, on the Organization of Trained Nurses' Alumnae Associations, was read by Miss Lucy Walker, Superintendent of the Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia. Miss Agnes Snively, Lady Superintendent of the General Hospital, Toronto, contributed a paper to open the discussion, which was read by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and Miss Isla Stewart, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Lavinia Dock, and others, took part in the discussion.

The second paper in the afternoon session was read by Miss Scovil, of Concord, New Hampshire, on the Victorian Order of Nurses in Canada. The discussion was opened by Professor James Robertson, of Canada, Hon. Secretary of the Victorian Order of Nurses, followed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Mrs. W. Rickman, and others.

We heard on all sides that the Nursing Section of the Congress was much appreciated, and it is to be hoped, therefore, that this first International Nursing Conference may be the precursor of many similar gatherings.

A Popular Appointment.

It is with the very greatest pleasure that we announce the election of Mrs. May Wright Sewall to the Presidency of the International Council of Women, and we congratulate the delegates on recognising that the one thing essential in their President is neither wealth nor high social rank, but the genius, personality, and capacity for work, which go to make a great woman. But for Mrs. Sewall we should have no International Council. She has for years most unselfishly stood on one side and put forward no claim to a high place in the Council which her brain conceived, and for which her work has largely gained the place which it now holds in the various nations. We rejoice, therefore, that she has received the recognition which was her due. It not unfrequently happens, when an idea becomes a splendid success, that the person whose brain conceived it, and whose hand carried out the plan her genius conceived, is set on one side, and others step in and reap the benefit of work which they have not performed. We hope that in the International Council of Women genius and personal service will always, as at present, be first considered in the selection of its President.

The following officers of the International Council were also elected:—
Countess of Aberdeen.....Vice President.
Miss Teresa Wilson.....Corresponding Secretary.
Mdlle. Camille Vidart.....Recording Secretary.
Frau SchrewinTreasurer.

The Past Congress.

By the time this issue of the NURSING RECORD is in the hands of its readers, the great International Congress of Women will have passed, leaving behind it, we have no doubt, a keen sense of delight and wonder at its marvellous success.

DURING the past week the daily papers have wisely given many columns of space to the proceedings of the Congress, and very full accounts of the Papers and Discussions which have been read, and for a special paper to attempt to deal with even the fringe of the questions discussed would be impossible. Enough to say that day by day each hall has been crowded with earnest and enthusiastic audiences, and that in the multitude of matters discussed, all women workers in the worlds educational, professional, political, industrial, and social, have had questions brought before them of the utmost interest.

As to the social side of the Congress, the hospitality offered has been of the most splendid. Luncheons, teas, dinners, receptions, have been offered without number to all delegates and speakers. One lady informed us that she had

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)