

found it set to the hymns of six other nations also. Have we not here the promise of the international spirit? While I have been sitting at this beautiful banquet it has seemed to me that each woman present has had a companion, the spirit of her great grandmother, challenging her to explain this unwonted sight, and speaking of the isolation of the lives of the women of the past as utterly uncomprehended by us. What made the difference? Ah, my dear friends—for friends I feel you all to be, for we all drank together the sacred pledge to the international bond—what has lifted us out of this isolation from many nations, many creeds, many tongues, many walks of life, to a fuller, freer atmosphere? The universal laws which are controlling the evolution which shall result in the absolute unity of mankind. The bonds which—unknown to our grandmothers in their isolated lives—unite us, are steam, the telegraph, the electric current.

I believe in sentiment only when it is synonymous with philosophy and divinest truth, but we must rejoice that to-day the International Council of Women are words familiar in a dozen tongues, while two decades ago they would have been foreign in any language.

What is the international thought by which our minds are lifted out of the bonds of our cramped conditions, what is our relation to the international idea? In the first place, new lessons of patriotism. The business of the journalist is to diffuse ideas, such knowledge as only such gatherings as this can bring, knowledge that shall grow out of our friendship, knowledge gleaned by a friend and communicated to another for the sake of winning a third; this is more potent than steam and the electric current. What is the special office of the nurse in relation to the international idea, for it is impossible to forget that this beautiful banquet is given under the auspices of the Matrons' Council, and the question is therefore an appropriate one. Nurses have discovered that when they see the crimson flood flowing from the side of the enemy of their country that they are the divine guardians of the wounded of any nationality, on any field. They have the inspiration of the international bond. They are a consecrated corps to bring the cup of blessing to all nations.

There are with us this evening, amongst others, our honoured chairman, of whose hospitality last year I have such pleasant memories, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Convener of the Professional Section of this Congress, and Mrs. Fenwick Miller, whose visits to Chicago in 1893 formed a link in this country with the international bond, Mrs. Fisher Unwin, my own proxy on the International Council, as well as representatives of the medical and nursing professions, who, through the indi-

vidual, reach out to humanity as one. With all these memories lying behind, and with all our hopes lying before, I pledge the international bond, remembering that in humanity, as in mathematics, the whole is greater than any of its parts."

The toast was received with the greatest enthusiasm.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who rose to propose the next toast, "The Matrons' Council," said that she felt sure she would have the sympathy of the meeting in having to speak after Mrs. Sewall. The British were not a very eloquent nation, they had deep feelings, strong convictions, a strong power of compelling circumstances, but they were not eloquent. The Matrons' Council was a young and not very powerful association, but it represented the international spirit. From the first it has recognised that though if it were isolated it might be a small and futile body, by putting out feelers into our colonies and dependencies it would in time become a powerful body, and so it invited representative nurses of each nation to accept the Honorary Membership of the Council, and to-day it has Hon. Members in the United States, in Canada, in New South Wales, Victoria, New Zealand, as well as in Europe, so that it has intercommunication with these countries and is kept well in touch with their nursing progress.

It was felt that the present occasion was an auspicious one to bestow upon the Hon. Members present the Badge of the Society, the little symbol of membership. All the Hon. Members had been invited, but only Mrs. Neill, of New Zealand, and Miss Dock, of the United States, were present, Mrs. Hampton Robb, who had hoped to be here, being detained by family affairs, and Miss Reijnvaan, of Holland, being forbidden to undertake the journey by her medical man. After remarking that the Council had not arrived at its present condition of success without the opposition which was apparently inevitable in the organization of all women's work at the present time, Mrs. Fenwick named the Hon. Members of the Society to whom the Badge would be sent, these being Miss Brennan, Superintendent of the Belle Vue Hospital, New York, the Mother of Nursing in the States, as our own St. Thomas' Hospital was at home, and where all the great nursing pioneers in that country had been trained;

Mrs. Hampton Robb, who was connected with all that was progressive in international nursing history, and the originator of the American Society of Superintendents, from which had sprung the great national organization of nurses in the States.

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