

Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., responded, and said that she was overwhelmed with the kindness and honour done to her. She was glad to reply to this toast on behalf of her medical sisters, and she would like to express the infinite debt of gratitude which they owed to nurses who so ably supplement their work. She would like further to say how infinitely she was indebted in the early days of her practice to the Matron of the New Hospital for Women, Sister Cartwright, for much that she had learnt from her. At the New Hospital they used to call Sister Cartwright the "stormy petrel," because wherever there was a bad case or an anxious moment there she was to be found to supplement the work of the medical staff. The day had gone by when any antagonism, fancied or real, existed between medical women and trained nurses, and there remained the mutual honour due to friendship and good fellowship. However, even emancipated women could not go on talking at twenty minutes past eleven, and she thought it was time for the last speaker of the evening to sit down.

There was yet another speaker, however, for the Chairman called upon Mrs. Fenwick Miller. Mrs. Fenwick Miller said she felt the moment she came into the room that it was good to be there. She was always glad to be in the midst of women who could do anything well, and it was easy to see that nearly all of those present this evening—most of the leading spirits in the nursing world—were amongst that number. She then spoke of Mrs. May Wright Sewall, as the heart and soul of the International Council, and the hope of the coming generation of women, of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, whose powers of organization had been such a factor in the success of the Congress, and who had, moreover, gathered together the necessary funds, of Lady Roberts Austen, who had worked so hard as Convener of the Hospitality Committee. When she thought of the excellent work done by women who were filling the important posts of Matrons of Hospitals it was difficult to understand why men who know what magnificent work is done by women, were not anxious to introduce them to more important positions, if there be a more important position than that of Matron of a hospital. The success with which women had filled these positions was a brilliant illustration of their capacity.

During the evening Miss Alyce Kent sang, delightfully, old English, Scotch, and other ballads, not forgetting "Down by the old Swanee River." The proceedings came to an end all too soon, and none of those who were present at this delightful gathering are likely to forget the pleasures of the evening or the inspiration which they received.

The Matrons' Council Conference.

THE second Annual Conference convened by the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland was held on Saturday, July 1st, at 20, Hanover Square. Miss Isla Stewart, Chairman of the Council, presided, and there was a good attendance, some 200 nurses being present, including a considerable number of the country members and many of the foreign nurses present at the International Congress. There were present on the platform Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Councillor, Miss Huxley, Lady Superintendent of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin, Miss Gertrude Knight, Matron of the General Hospital, Nottingham, and Miss Mollett, Matron of the Royal South Hants Infirmary, Southampton, the three Vice-Chairmen of the Council.

Before beginning the ordinary business meeting, MISS STEWART said that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick wished to move a resolution. Those who were present at the meeting of the nursing section, on the previous day at the Westminster Town Hall, were much gratified by the Countess of Aberdeen reading a very kind letter from Miss Florence Nightingale, and Mrs. Fenwick felt that it would be a graceful act on the part of the Matrons' Council to convey to Miss Nightingale their appreciation of her action.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK moved:—

"That the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, assembled in Annual Conference, beg to convey to Miss Florence Nightingale their warm appreciation of her kind and inspiring letter addressed to the nurses present at the International Congress of Women, and to assure her that it is their earnest desire to uphold the high standard which she has placed before the Nursing Profession."

MISS HUXLEY (Dublin) seconded the motion, which was carried with acclamation.

The Chairman opened the meeting by calling upon the Hon. Secretary to read the minutes of the last Annual Conference, which were confirmed. Miss Breay then read the following letters from the Honorary Members in other countries:—

DEAR MADAM,—I have delayed until now acknowledging the most cordial invitation from the Matrons' Council to attend the meeting of the International Council of Women in London next summer, in the hope that I might be able to accept. I deeply regret that the outlook for going is not favourable, and I am obliged to decline. Nothing could have given me more pleasure than to have attended the meetings, as I watch with great interest nursing affairs in Great Britain, and to have the privilege of seeing and hearing those who are working so hard in the interests of nursing abroad would be both a great pleasure and profit. Accept my most sincere thanks for the honour

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