

## International Congress of Women

## NURSING SECTION.

## MORNING SESSION.

MRS. MAY WRIGHT SEWALL presiding.

MRS. SEWALL was supported on the platform by the Convener of the Professional Section, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick; Miss Isla Stewart, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Miss Gordon, Charing Cross Hospital; Miss Smedley, St. George's Hospital; Miss C. M. Beachcroft; Miss M. Huxley, of Dublin; Miss Louisa Stevenson, of Edinburgh; Mrs. Neill; Miss M. H. Watkins; Miss Lavana Dock; Fru Norrie; and Captain Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Sewall said, on opening the meeting:—"We are convened under the auspices of the International Council. The international idea is the idea which has to be emphasized in all these meetings, and I think it is a blessed thing this morning to bear in mind that it was really upon the battlefields—which we hope our women's movement will abolish—that women of different nationalities first learned that nursing was as blessed when extended to an enemy as when extended to a friend—that a wounded enemy upon a battlefield made the same appeal to the hearts of women as a wounded friend. And so it is particularly appropriate that in an International Council a Congress of Nurses should consider all those questions bearing upon the amelioration of sickness and pain, and consider the causes to which suffering and death may be due. It is therefore with great pleasure that I take the chair to-day."

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, Convener of the Professional Section, then read the following letters—one from Miss Hanna Kindbom, Clinical Instructor in Nursing in the University of Texas, and one from Miss McGahey, Lady Superintendent of Prince Alfred's Hospital, Sydney:—

*To Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Convener International Nursing Conference.*

ESTEEMED MADAM,—Words are inadequate to convey to you my regrets at not being able to accept the invitation to this International Congress. Commingled too with my regrets, is the deepest appreciation of the honor which I feel in having this invitation extended to me.

Though I shall not be with you in person, I shall certainly be in spirit, and all measures passed tending to the elevation of the Nursing Profession will be most heartily endorsed by me.

The benefits which will result from this meeting are manifold and too apparent for me to comment upon. This gathering of women, from all countries, in the world's great metropolis will attract attention every-

where, and attention followed by interest will give a new stimulus to energy, and our profession, than which there is no nobler, will be given a higher recognition in every land.

My fervent hope now is that the day is not far distant when as with Great Britain's provinces the sun will never set on lands where our profession is not firmly established and the nurse's badge a familiar and welcome sight.

With all best wishes for a most successful session and again regretting my inability to be present.

I remain cordially yours,

HANNA KINDBOM.

Clinical Instructor of Nursing, Medical Department,  
University of Texas.

Galveston, Texas.

June 12th, 1899.

*To the Convener (Professional Section) International Nursing Congress, London.*

DEAR MADAM,—I much regret I am unable to be present at the meeting of the International Nursing Congress on Friday, June 30th. The paper on the "Professional Training and Status of Nurses" will, no doubt, be very interesting. The subject is one which is exercising the minds of many of the leaders of the nursing world, both at home and abroad.

Accept my heartiest good wishes for the success of your meeting, and I trust the efforts put forth in the cause of nursing may be crowned with success.

I shall look forward with pleasure to reading an account of the papers read, and the discussions thereon.

With renewed good wishes for the success of your labours,

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

S. B. MCGAHEY, Matron.

Prince Alfred Hospital,  
Missenden Road, Camperdown,  
Sydney, N.S. Wales.

May 1st, 1899.

MRS. NEILL (New Zealand) read the first paper on the "Professional Training and Status of Nurses." The second paper was read by Miss M. H. WATKINS (Cape Colony), and Miss LAVINIA L. DOCK (United States) opened the discussion.

## THE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND STATUS OF NURSES.

By MRS. NEILL.

MISS NIGHTINGALE says: "Nursing is an art; and, if it is to be made an art, requires as exclusive a devotion, as hard a preparation, as any painter's or sculptor's work. It is one of the Fine Arts. There is no such thing as amateur art, there is no such thing as amateur nursing."

When this was written, in 1868, the difficulty was to find women whose friends were willing to allow them to leave the shelter of home and go forth with heart and soul and earn their living

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