

the mission of the nurse is world-wide, embracing all nationalities, from the poles to the equator, recognizing no distinctions of creed, colour, or social position, but concerned only in bringing to all who need it the comfort and help which her professional training and skill enable her to afford. This aim forms a bond of unity between trained nurses all the world over, and the basis of any international union must be the desire to promote the most efficient methods of caring for the sick.

And such efficiency will undoubtedly receive the best possible stimulus by the interchange of ideas and experiences between the members of the profession of various nations. There is much that we can learn from one another, as the events of the past week have proved, and there are many points of common interest which merit the earnest consideration of international representatives. The best methods of organization, what should constitute an efficient curriculum, details of discipline, and of self-government for graduate nurses, as well as of post-graduate education, the establishment of an international code of ethics—all these are suitable subjects for international discussion. The advantage of such comparison and mutual counsel will be that we shall escape from the narrowness of isolated effort to a wider, broader level; that between those nations where nursing is already to some extent organized, there will be mutual benefit by interchange of ideas, "as iron sharpeneth iron."

And the effect upon those nations which are not so far advanced, by association with their colleagues, will be to place before them the possibility and desirability of better methods, greater organization, and a higher standard of practical work. In the adoption of the resolution to form an International Council of Nurses lies therefore folded the germ of possibilities wide as the sea, far reaching as they are wide, and embracing all of whatever creed, nation, or colour who are organizing themselves for the purpose of the better care of the sick.

The duty of the International Council of Nurses, whilst carefully guarding the national characteristics of National Councils, will be to gather up the threads and weave them into one harmonious whole, so forming the great nursing sisterhood into a compact and united body, strong and forceful for the good of nurses and nursing all the world over. It is a matter for deep thankfulness that this decision should have been arrived at while representatives of nursing from ten different nations were present in this country.

The Nursing Session at the International Congress.

THE nursing session of the International Congress, which occupied both the morning and afternoon of Friday in last week, was of extreme interest both to nurses and the general public, one paper stating that the nursing session in the morning was, perhaps, the most interesting of any which took place during the Congress. We propose to print a full report of the papers which were presented, with the discussions which followed, but we have of necessity held over much that is of interest this week, as we have devoted considerable space to reporting the speeches which took place at the Matrons' Council Dinner, and at the Annual Conference of the Matrons' Council, at 20, Hanover Square, on Saturday last, as we consider, as we have already stated, that the result of these deliberations must be regarded as of the utmost importance to the nursing profession. We give, therefore, only a brief survey of the Congress this week.

The chair at the nursing session was taken by Mrs. May Wright Sewall, who charmed everyone by her eloquence, her sweet and dignified personality, and her delightful manners. She was an ideal chairman. We were glad to observe in the room during the day Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Miss Gordon, Matron of St. Thomas' Hospital, Miss H. Gordon, Matron of Charing Cross Hospital, Miss Monk, Matron of Kings' College Hospital, Miss Smedley, Matron of St. George's Hospital, and Miss Medill, Matron of St. Mary's Hospital. It is much that the Matrons of our large London hospitals should come and listen to what there is to be said on the questions under discussion, and is, we hope, a step in the direction of unity and consolidation. The first paper read was that by Mrs. Neill, on the Professional Training and Status of Nurses, an able and interesting paper. Mrs. Neill, as most of our readers know, is Assistant Inspector of Hospitals and Asylums in New Zealand, as well as holding the enviable position of an enfranchised woman. Then followed Miss M. H. Watkins, of Cape Colony, on State Registration, whose paper was a valuable contribution to the subject under discussion, after which Miss Lavinia L. Dock opened the discussion, in which Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Isla Stewart, the Hon. Maude Stanley, Mrs. W. Rickman, Miss Laura Todd, Mrs. Walter Spencer, Frau Karl Otterson, Miss Margaret Breay, and others, subsequently took part.

The next paper was by Mrs. Quintard, Superintendent of St. Luke's Hospital, New York, U.S.A., on Naval and Military Nursing, a subject upon which Mrs. Quintard was well qualified to

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