

## The Nurses' Congress.

The first meeting of the International Council of Nurses will be held in Buffalo, on the afternoon of Monday, September 16th, and it is satisfactory to learn that Miss McGahey, Lady Superintendent of Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, intends to be there, and to present the report on the condition of nursing and nurses' organisations in Federated Australia herself, in her official capacity as Hon. President for Australia. Miss McGahey will arrive in England during the first week in August, and will join the party of delegates leaving England for the Congress on August 31st, who intend to visit Montreal, Ottawa, the Thousand Isles, and Niagara en route.

We are pleased to note in the last issue of *Asylum News*, a letter signed P. C. C., drawing the attention of asylum workers to the Nurses' Congress at Buffalo, in which she writes:—

"Trained Hospital nurses will be ably represented by prominent members of their own profession. Might not our special branch of nursing also be represented in like manner? Surely, from one or other of the numerous asylums in Great Britain, there could be found an asylum worker willing and competent to represent us, supposing time and means were placed at her disposal.

In order to advertise the congress, circulars, stating when and where the congress takes place, might be sent through the Medical Superintendents to the staffs of asylums throughout the kingdom, and I feel sure no nurse would begrudge a small donation, limited, say, to threepence, to raise a fund to send out a representative of such an important body as asylum nurses and their special work and interests.

"Mental nursing has, for so long been under rated and overlooked by other branches of nursing, that this, I think, appears to be a very favourable opportunity of obtaining some due recognition, and giving an idea of the work and training of mental nurses as carried on in most asylums."

We hope this letter will arouse interest amongst asylum workers, and that they will rise to the occasion, and subscribe the £50 required to send a delegate. In the United States immense interest is taken in the alleviation of insanity, and a visit to some of the fine sanatoria, where the insane are treated, would, no doubt, be eminently instructive. Miss Maud Banfield, the Hon. Secretary of the Congress, and Superintendent Nurse at the Polyclinic Hospital, Philadelphia, will gladly send all information on the subject.

Miss Maud Banfield writes: "English people are often bewildered and hindered in what they want to do, when they first visit 'the States,' because of some little differences in the meaning of words or expressions. The first time I went shopping in

this country, I tried to buy seven different things, and returned to my friends with only one of the seven as the result of a fourteen mile ride!

A chemist's shop is a "drug store." Postage stamps may usually be purchased there, whether or not it is a post office, and iced drinks may be obtained (sometimes called "soft drinks," meaning that they contain no alcohol). Telegrams can *not* be sent from post offices. (The telegraphs are not Government, but private property, run by companies.) A draper's shop is a dry goods store; in large cities the department store is the easiest place to shop in. Calico sheets are called muslin sheets, and muslin is called lawn. A reel of cotton is a spool of thread. A jug is a pitcher—one asks for a "pitcher of cream"; therefore, of course, a pitcher is called a jug, meaning something very large. A railway station is a depôt, a perambulator a baby-wagon (spelt with one g). Goloshes are unknown, but rubbers are much worn in wet weather. Crackers are biscuits, and biscuits are a sort of hot roll. Buns are unknown. Boots are things which come up to one's knee, such as our riding boots. The ordinary button or lace affairs are called shoes, and Oxford shoes are called *low* shoes. One cannot get one's shoes cleaned in America, except under really exceptional circumstances, and it is of no use to put them outside your door. If you are staying at an hotel, you will find them the next morning (that is, if you are so fortunate as to find them at all, and no one has walked off with them thinking they are cast-off goods) in exactly the same condition in which you left them.

It is advisable not to try to post your letters (mail your letter, we say here, even if it is only going to the next square) in the first red box you come to, for if you do, you will probably do as a young English girl did in New York a few days ago—turn on the fire alarm, and in a few minutes you will find yourself surrounded with fire engines, and hose, and panting horses and profane men. Post boxes are silvered. It is well not to touch red boxes in this country.

It should be clearly understood that individual nurses are most cordially invited to attend this Congress, whether or not they are members of any Guild, League, or other organisation. In Buffalo, a Central Bureau of Registration and Enquiry will be established by the Committee on Local Arrangements (appointed from the Buffalo Nurses' Association), which will afford nurse travellers all information and assistance in its power. All nurses may feel sure that, whether travelling alone, or in a party, they will not be allowed to feel that they are "strangers in a strange land," but rather that they are members of a profession which is united as to its ideals, if sometimes differing in its methods."

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