

offered me, I will gladly try most earnestly to develop this subject more in detail. Let it for the moment suffice to put you in remembrance that it is our most sacred duty for the moment—with the coming year in the new century opening its gates—to endeavour earnestly to keep written on the banner we bear in the battle of life the beautiful words of the poet:—

“Footsteps that perhaps another
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother
Seeing shall take heart again!”

Mutual trust, mutual influence, let it be our motto for every day of the coming year, let us accept our personal responsibility, our personal influence, not as a *duty*, but as a *right* never to be taken from us.

It is my earnest conviction that in this way the nursing profession, whose welfare all of us so heartily wish to promote and to secure, steadily and surely will advance in the right direction.

May the coming year fulfil, both in *your* country and in *mine*, this most ardent wish of your most sincere friend and well-wisher,

J. P. REIJNVAAN,

*Late Matron of the Wilhelmina Hospital,
Amsterdam; Hon. Member Matrons'
Council, Great Britain and Ireland.*

FROM DENMARK.

MY DEAR EDITOR! MY DEAR PRESIDENT!

I cannot tell you how very glad I was in receiving, amongst other Christmas greetings, your kind letter, and thanking you sincerely for all your kindness in the year nearly gone, I send you, my dear Mrs. Fenwick, my best wishes for the new year and for many happy years to come. I beg to ask you to let the NURSING RECORD be my messenger of good wishes for the new century to British nurses,—to the Matrons' Council, which offered such splendid hospitality to nurses during the Congress,—to St. Bartholomew's League, and to all other Leagues, soon arising, I feel convinced, and joining in the formation of the British Council of Nurses. British nurses may send a greeting full of hope to the new century!

I know that friends of progress very often think that we live in a dull time, and that our fellow-women are very slow to take their part in the struggle for human rights. Well, yes, they *are* slow,—but still follow, all of them! Even the adversaries of progress feel compelled to follow; they too organize!

Let us look a century behind us. Where were we a hundred years ago? Who wished to see women take part in political life in the year 1800? To-day women are enfranchised in three or four of the British colonies, and in four of the United States.

And nurses?

Half a century ago only unfortunate women took up the heavy task of a nurse, and they only won a poor livelihood, toil and disregard. Then Elizabeth Fry spoke a word in favour of nursing, and during the Crimean War Florence Nightingale taught the astonished world that well-trained women may bring order out of chaos. The American Civil War and the Franco-German War proved that women may perform their own duties even amidst the horrors of war and that good nursing is able to preserve many dear lives, even when men do their best to destroy them.

The latest nursing experiences in the Hispano-American War and the Boer War are sad experiences, we must confess, but still, we may find the greatest comfort in seeing the results of these misfortunes. Nurses are organizing in the old world and in the new one, in both hemispheres they ask for legal affirmation of the right to take part in the organization of the work which must be done, and which is only done inadequately if the leadership thereof is not left to women.

If this organization of nurses was only begun in one country, we might fear that it might fail. But the fact is that not only do nurses claim their rights in Europe and in America, but European and American nurses have stretched out their hands and *have joined!* We are allowed to hope that the *combined efforts* of nurses of the old and the new world may win the battle, supported, as they will be, by women of all nations.

The future of nursing has a sound basis in the International Idea. In this hope I hail the new century—the century of nurses, the century of women, and in this hope I am,

Faithfully yours,

CHARLOTTE NORRIE.

Councillor, International Council of Nurses.

State Registration.

THE feeler we sent out a few weeks ago in this journal, to test the views of our readers in reference to State Registration of Nurses, has proved eminently satisfactory. The voting on the question has resulted in a percentage of *one* against, to *one hundred and seven* for legislation, so that the opinion in favour of State Registration is overwhelming. In this connection it is satisfactory to note that well educated nurses holding good professional credentials are unanimous in their demand for legal status. In the names and addresses of those who have signed for Registration we have a nucleus of hundreds of persons with whom to communicate on this important question when time is ripe for organization.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)