

truth, and right, according to the new lights, as you have ever been, and may you always keep that dear, delicious flash of wit and that marvellous choice of adjectives that set one's sides to shaking.

What I love about you is your modernity. You are not afraid to see that old truths and old virtues need, occasionally, a new setting. You have a strong idea of ethics—ethics in the large sense, the extension of the moral code to all kinds of things that were not in existence when the moral code was framed.

Then you have such a sound and sweet nursing spirit. How often, as I have read your comments from the professional side, have I thought—"There, that is exactly our opinion, only we have never said it so well."

There is always the purest tenderness and consideration for the patient and for his circumstances—an abhorrence of anything un-nurse-like. Then, too, dear RECORD, I have not failed to observe your love for animals and your sympathy for whoever is having a bad time.

I hope you will be sure to come to the Nurses' Congress. We must start off the new century well. We may expect anything and everything in this new century. Do you believe anyone will have the heart to refuse us anything we want? Come and bring with you all your readers; to whom, through your pages, we send greetings and best wishes for the future. Do they realize what there is before us in our International Council, in which you, dear RECORD, have taken such a splendid part? You, indeed, so far, have done it all. I fear, without your energy, it might have been another century before the rest of us had had "gumption" enough to see our possibilities.

Now let us all do our best.

A happy new year to you all, and, "until we meet again."

LAVINIA L. DOCK,

*Councillor and Hon. Sec., International Council of Nurses; Hon. Sec., American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses.*

FROM HOLLAND.

DEAR SISTERS.

It is with the greatest pleasure I accede to the kind request of your most honoured editor, to write a short letter of greeting and encouragement to British nurses at the beginning of the new century.

But, first of all, allow me to greet you with the old words (always new again) and repeated on the first day of the year by all nations and all mankind: "A happy new year!" God give it may be a happier one than the last and may it bring peace and good-will to the nations, the families, to the homes of all who have suffered and still suffer so cruelly from the effects of the South African War.

A hearty wish for the welfare of all nurses, not only in Great Britain and Ireland and on the Continent, but for the welfare of all who are serving in the ranks of the Nursing Sisterhood follows most naturally, while I heartily accept this opportunity to express openly my sincere wishes for the prospering of your paper and the editors so bravely and earnestly interested in its success. Now, after this, I want to say a few, only a very few, words of encouragement and of most earnest consideration to us all. Every year that passes leaves its steps on the sands of time, but in repeating this old saying, do we always remember our *own* steps planted on the ground and left behind us. In that multitude we so often are apt to forget that *each* step individually leave its *own* mark, not on the ground alone—it would soon be effaced in that case—but leaves its mark never to be forgotten quite, neither to be swept away, in the hearts of those we live with in the world around us, whether it be a little one, or a much larger sphere.

I do think I may thoroughly accept the truth that, in all countries of the world, in all of us individually, we may admit in general the same virtues and the same faults, we really are too civilized not to take note of the beautiful deeds, but no less of the shortcomings, of our neighbours, and looking a little bit around us in the world (the nursing world in this case), I think I may, in all security, admit that our English Sisters are, in the main part, very much alike to our own.

In that case I should like very earnestly to ask all of you in your own person: Do you really forget, or seem to forget, as so often I notice around me, your own individual influence I spoke about a moment ago? Do you forget, or seem to forget, that, with the coming century, we all of us, Matrons, Sisters, and Nurses, have a duty to fulfil, not to our patients only (we will rarely forget that), but to our comrades in the battle? Do we remember that the strong mainpoint of the whole nursing association, the pivot on which turns our whole little world, is this and this only: *mutual influence*, and intimately connected with it, *mutual trust*?

It is to this *mutual trust* that I especially want to attract your attention for the moment.

It is my most earnest conviction that, in no organization, mutual trust is more absolutely needed than between the members of the nursing profession.

In such a short space as a letter admits, it is possible to say only the smallest part of what I have to say on this subject. It involves really the whole organization of the hospitals, of the registration, and the welfare of the private nurses, the matrons, the head sisters, of all who belong to the nursing staff. Still, if the opportunity is

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