

nations opportunities for the interchange of thought and counsel, the broadening of sympathies and the abolition of prejudices. I beg, therefore, to propose:—

"That steps be taken to organize an International Council of Nurses."

This resolution was seconded from the chair by Miss Isla Stewart, President of the Matrons' Council, supported by Miss Huxley, of Dublin, and Mrs. May Wright Sewall, and carried unanimously. A Provisional Committee was appointed, the Council founded, and, later, by international selection, the officers were elected.

The constitution adopted was prefaced by the following Preamble:—

"We nurses of all nations, sincerely believing that the best good of our Profession will be advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy, and purpose, do hereby band ourselves in a confederation of workers to further the efficient care of the sick, and to secure the honour and the interests of the Nursing Profession."

The objects were defined as follows:—

(a) To provide a means of communication between the nurses of all nations, and to afford facilities for the interchange of international hospitality.

(b) To provide opportunities for nurses to meet together from all parts of the world, to confer upon questions relating to the welfare of their patients and their profession.

It is an augury for future success that representative Superintendents of Nurse Training Schools in Great Britain, the United States of America, the Dominion of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand, Germany and Holland, have already accepted office on the International Council.

THE INTERNATIONAL NURSING TREE.

Professions, like nations, can only flourish by the development of the individual sense of corporate responsibility. The first aim, therefore, of the International Council of Nurses is to organize nurses all the world over, and make them articulate. Thus in the formation of national councils or federations of nurses *graduate suffrage* must ultimately be adopted as a fundamental principle.

Thus the first and most important work of the International Council will be to confer upon questions relating to the definition of the basis of education and qualification for a trained nurse. At present no minimum standard of education, examination, or qualification exists, upon which trained nurses can demand legal status.

Rooted, therefore, in the graduate vote, the Nursing Tree will branch by delegation into

Alumnæ Associations, blossom by delegation into National Associated Alumnæ, ripen into National Councils of Nurses (inclusive of Superintendents' and Nurses' Societies), the fruit of which will be found in the International Council of Nurses, composed, we hope, in time, of the delegates of National Councils from every civilised country on the face of the earth.

An ambitious scheme. Why, certainly. Yet it is simple, and I like big things. It is easy to predict that great importance will be attached to decisions arrived at by a body of nurses so representative of all shades of nursing opinion as those delegated to act on the International Council. It should ultimately become the Deliberative Assembly and Supreme Court of Appeal of the Nursing World.

THE COMING CONGRESS.

It is a happy arrangement that the meetings of the International Council of Nurses are to be held at Buffalo in the same week as the International Congress. Delegates will be present from Great Britain, Canada, and Federated Australia, besides those in the United States, and we may hope that in addition to the business meetings of the Grand Council others of a less formal nature will be held, so that its objects may be brought before the members of the Congress, and an opportunity afforded for discussing and arousing interest in its future work. In your "dear land of Liberty" the environment will be eminently sympathetic and encouraging to any phase of the international movement. *Au revoir.*

The International Nurses' Congress.

When we proposed last year, at a meeting of the Provisional Committee of the International Council of Nurses: "That, in the opinion of the British Members of the Provisional Committee, the organisation of nurses being more fully developed in the United States of America than in any other country, it would be of great professional benefit if a meeting of the International Council of Nurses could be held in the United States in 1901 to celebrate the New Century," a resolution, seconded by Miss Isla Stewart, and forwarded to our colleagues in the States, with the suggestion that a Nurses' Congress might be held at the same time, we had little doubt that such a gathering would prove very attractive and a great success, and such, indeed, has been the case—in fact the interest evinced in this Con-

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