

usually formed of the graduates of training schools (lines upon which the nurses of St. Bartholomew's had associated together), which through delegation, formed the National Associated Alumnae of the United States. The good feeling, fellowship, power, and prestige which such organizations fostered and produced was inestimable, and not only benefitted the members of the nursing fraternity in the western hemisphere, but also those visiting the States from other lands. The Matrons' Council of Great Britain provided a means of consultation and co-operation amongst Superintendents of Nurses, but it was also anxious to help graduate nurses to form a National Council of Nurses, whereby they also should enjoy the same privileges, and in conjunction with the Matrons, be in a position to federate for purposes of promoting the usefulness and honour, the financial, and other interests of the Nursing Profession.

The day had gone past when certificated nurses were content to be "done for," they rightly wanted to "do" for themselves, and it was only by union that a forceful body of nurses could be evolved. The history of the Royal British Nurses' Association had its value as a warning to working women. It demonstrated the lesson that women's societies must be self-governed, if they hoped to conserve their interests, as on every professional point which had come before the male Hon. Officers of the Nurses' Association, the nurses' interests had been ruthlessly sacrificed, and their powerlessness emphasised by the adoption of a new and cramping code of Bye-Laws; the nurses who had been influenced to support those Laws had attempted to sell their birthright for a mess of patronage pottage, but those nurses who, on principle, had consistently repudiated the R.B.N.A. policy of subjugation of conscience, and freedom of speech and action, must do more: they must organize on self-respecting lines to defend those sacred rights. She therefore hoped in the near future to see many nurses' associations taking an intelligent interest in their own affairs, as apart from their commercial interests. Nurses could not live in the world and not be of it, nurses had a very responsible position in the body politic, responsibility which compelled them to define their duty to their neighbours, fellow nurses, and patients alike, and to perform that duty with every energy they possess.

Mrs. Fenwick further pointed out that American nurses were so federated that they were eligible to enter the International Council of Nurses just as soon as British Nurses were ready to associate with them. It was proposed that Great Britain and the Colonies should each form a National Council of Nurses, the Council to be composed of delegates of such Nurses' Leagues as would consent to unite. She was therefore anxious that the

Registered Nurses' League should be ready when the roll was called.

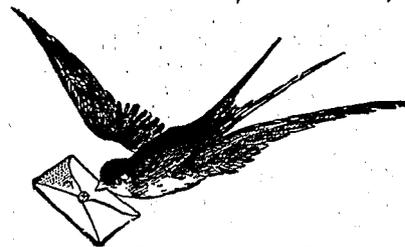
The proposal to form a League of Registered Nurses on the lines already adopted by St. John's House Nurses was warmly approved by the Sisters present, Sister Lidyard expressing the opinion "that if you don't keep pushing on with the times you soon find yourself considerably in the rear." It was therefore decided to circularise past and present members of the Registered Nurses' Society after the New Year, and invite expressions of opinion on the matter.

The meeting then terminated.

SOPHIA CARTWRIGHT, Secretary.

Our Foreign Letters.

STATE HOSPITAL, TAUNTON, MASS. U.S.A



MY DEAR EDITOR,—I have not forgotten that I was to write you what I might hear of impressions made by the International

Congress of Nurses held in Buffalo. I have waited to hear from different sources, and have heard from many, and from all the same sentiment; all feel that great good has resulted. The presence of foreign delegates from so many different countries, each bringing so much valuable information concerning work in other lands makes the good accomplished by members of our profession all over the world seem much more real than ever before. The privilege of talking face to face with earnest women who have been permitted to do such great good has been an inspiration to all, seeing and knowing those whose names have for years been familiar to us as leaders in our profession, has made us realise more fully the strength of the nursing profession. Because of the Congress American nurses feel themselves more in touch with workers in other lands, and a deeper interest in all work with which nurses are connected is the result. These are among the things which have made the Congress so helpful to all, not only to those who were fortunate enough to be present, but to the Training Schools with which they are connected. The Schools which were so fortunate as to receive visits from the delegates feel themselves highly favoured, while those too far away from the centres to be visited feel that they lost much. I am very happy in writing these things to you. I shall I feel sure continue to hear encouraging remarks. But these tell you the general feeling; for myself I can add all this and more. I am thankful that I have lived to see such a gathering; I am proud of every step in advance which has been made by the nursing profession, and very glad am I that I was allowed the privilege of being one of the workers in laying the foundation of so grand a work in America. I shall never be able to express my gratitude to English nurses for their kindness to me, when as a young

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