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Editorial.

THE UNITY OF HUMANITY.

It is impossible to take part in a great International Congress, such as that which has just come to an end in Berlin, without receiving an indelible impression of the "unity of humanity." The strong impulses coursing through the veins of the various races are the same throughout the world, and, the more we come into contact with the peoples of the world, deep down we recognise the brotherhood by which we are united in common bonds, the folly of the misunderstandings, and the wickedness of the political expediency, which sets the hand of brother against brother, and plunges the nations into the horrors of war. Differences, while humanity exists, will always arise, but the time has surely come when these should be settled, not by the methods of primitive barbarism, but by appeal to an international tribunal. It is because we believe that International Congresses, and the mutual understanding and good feeling engendered by them, will do more than any other factor to bring about this desired end, and, further, that they have the effect of broadening and deepening national and individual lives, that we desire for all a comprehension of the International Movement, and their participation in the great Congresses which from time to time are organised to promote its aims.

The great impression received by all observant persons who attended the Berlin Congress was one of the extraordinary force and domination of the German women. We were never of those who believed that our German sisters were behind the women of other nations. For years they have had the advantage of a thorough education, and now that they have grasped the importance of solidarity and organisation, now that their voices are heard in public, not only their eloquence, but their splendid reasoning capacity—the result of intellectual training—becomes apparent. The strong personality of the women of Ger-

many stamped itself upon the Congress, and must always be associated with it. In every department of the various Sections the meetings were conducted by women of forceful character with extraordinary ability. Considered as a whole, the organisation was splendid. Outside the Congress, also, the warmth of the welcome extended to the foreign delegates who accepted invitations to functions organised in their honour was unmistakably as sincere as it was graceful, and the hospitality extended to them was of the most cordial description.

Nor could anyone who, like ourselves, has not visited Berlin for twenty years fail to appreciate the extraordinary evolution which has been going on. To this the civic reception and farewell banquet, given by the High Bürgermeister in the Rathaus to members of the Congress, is alone sufficient evidence. No one who was privileged to be present can ever forget the occasion, not only because of the lavishness of its hospitality and the friendly feeling which pervaded it, but on account of the fact that for the first time women were publicly honoured as the guests of the city, and co-operated with men as speakers.

The beauty of the city itself must be accorded a passing tribute. No city could, indeed, be so splendid upon which love and personal service had not been expended. The Rulers of Prussia have always lived near the capital, and in touch with its people, and their pride in and solicitude for its welfare no doubt accounts in part for the immense care lavished upon it for generations past.

One word of congratulation we must say to the nursing world, for nurses were, without a doubt, the best represented profession in the Congress. At least a hundred were numbered amongst its members, and the great advantage of a professional press, through the medium of which an interesting and profitable visit could be organised at the smallest possible cost, was amply demonstrated by the large number of English, American, and German nurses who attended the Congress.

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