

Dr. Hamilton, Baroness Mannerhaim, Mrs. Kildare Treacy, Miss Garriock, Miss Cowper, and Miss Lamont. The well-lighted tables, the beautiful cut-glass chandeliers, the lovely flowers, all combined to make an impressive scene, and the well dressed women present afforded a practical demonstration that members of the nursing profession are capable of taking their share in the social life of the day, as well as of rendering skilled assistance and tender care to the sick, the suffering, and the dying. It was almost impossible for our French guests to believe that these gay and cultured women had passed through an entire and arduous nursing curriculum, and had done their full share of scrubbing and cleaning.

The occasion was a unique one. Nurses of so many nationalities had never before dined together. It was evident that they had come prepared to enjoy themselves to the uttermost, and were doing their best to carry out their determination.

The first speech of the evening was made by M. Felix Voisin, who spoke with that high appreciation of the work of a nurse, and of the honourable nature of nursing, which characterised his words throughout the Conference.

The next speaker, Mme. Alphen Salvador, said:

Madam President, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—I am glad of the opportunity afforded me by this Banquet to thank, in the name of all Frenchwomen interested in nursing, our President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who has taken the initiative of assembling in Paris the International Congress of Nurses.

In calling together the members of the Conference in Paris, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has drawn attention to a most important question, almost ignored by the majority of the public, and insufficiently studied until to-day. The Director of the Assistance Publique, the Representative of the Municipal Council, and the President of the Conseil de Surveillance of the Assistance Publique, have, by their kind presence, and the active interest they evince in the Congress, greatly encouraged the persevering endeavours which have been made to improve the status of nurses in France. Henceforward we shall feel inspired and buoyed up in our task by the sympathy of the valiant women who have come from all parts of the world to bring to us the fruit of their experience, and with whom we work heartily to overcome and alleviate human suffering.

She then presented to Mrs. Fenwick a lovely bouquet of red, white, and blue flowers, tied with a broad ribbon, the tricolour of France.

#### THE TOAST OF HONOUR.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, in acknowledging the gift, said:

Madamé Salvador,—In returning thanks for your beautiful gift, I do so not for myself alone

but for the nurses of all the countries represented here to-night. We shall ever remember with heartfelt gratitude the charming hospitality we have enjoyed in France. We have often heard of "La belle France," and we shall all go away very much in love with her.

In the name of the International Council of Nurses, I present to you, Mme. Salvador, this bouquet of roses, the national flower of England, in which country the International Council of Nurses was founded. I should like also to express my admiration for the work of the school in the Rue Amyot. Everything must have a beginning. May the work which it has inaugurated bear fruit a thousandfold in your noble country.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you the toast of "La belle France."

This toast was received with acclamation, everyone rising in its honour.

The next speaker was Dr. Rist, who said:

Allow me to speak in English, and to apologise for any faults which I may make. I should like to speak also in German, in Danish, and in Dutch.

My only regret is that many more members of the permanent staff of the Municipal Hospitals are not present, as they would wish to be if they knew of this Banquet. The nurses of the International Council are bringing to French hospitals a gift which they have been wanting for years. If the Conference had come to Paris ten years ago these officials would not have dared to come for they would have been rather ashamed, after England had started the work, to show almost nothing. But now they have tried to follow this good example. They have learnt of the work begun, have seen it in Paris, and at Bordeaux, and now under the influence of M. Mesureur they understand the necessity of introducing modern nursing. The work has been started, and the rest of the country will probably follow on to achievement. In 15 or 20 years if the International Council of Nurses gathers again in Paris, nursing will have attained the same standard as that of those countries which at present are further advanced. I hope your visit to France will have the very important effect of aiding the cause of modern nursing in France.

At the conclusion of Dr. Rist's eloquent speech, Sister Agnes Karll briefly addressed those present in German.

Mrs. Hampton Robb then said:

It has been my good fortune to attend many Conferences, and I never do so without a thrill that so many earnest women should take up so important a work. I am particularly thankful and glad to be a nurse, and thankful to be present at the Paris Conference. I have recently attended a Convention of from 400 to 500 delegates in the United States, and in regard to both it seems to me a unique thing that a large body of professional women should sit in Conference to consider what may be done to improve the health of the nations, and do not consider at all that if they attain this object they will be depriving themselves of their means of livelihood. It seems to me that a high standard of ethics is attained in the adoption of such a position.

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