

Scientific medicine has put nursing on a professional plane, whether nurses wish it or not, but while valuing their professional status they must never forget to emphasise the other side of their work for the sick—that side with which the Cross is identified.

M. G. MESUREUR.

M. Mesureur, Director-General of the Assistance Publique, who received an ovation when he rose to speak, proposed the last toast of the evening. He said:

Madam President, Ladies,—During these three days of the Nursing Conference of 1907, I have had the opportunity of speaking to you so frequently that I hesitate in doing so again this evening.

But, as you are leaving us, allow me to propose a toast to all our Fatherlands, to all the countries which we love, too numerous to mention individually, to all, from my heart, I address a fraternal greeting. Frontiers do not exist for nurses. People suffer in America, in Oceania, as well as in France. Misery exists for the unfortunate ones of this life on all shores, and this is the tie which unites us—humanity. When a human being succumbs to illness, or is lying in a hospital ward he has no country. It will always be a great consolation to us—the great teaching of your Congress—that we are compatriots of the same country, of the country where men suffer, and, alas, die also, the country of misery and sickness. From your Association the great family of nurses will arise stronger and more united. Its members will aid one another in fighting evil in banishing hate. This great fraternity of the peoples will hold out its hand to assist, to help, and to heal.

The toast was cordially received, and then, at last, a move was made, and the guests assembled in the reception room for a few last words, words reluctantly spoken, for all felt that such an occasion would scarcely come again in their lifetimes, and they desired to make the very most of the moments that remained. So little groups were to be seen—earnest, merry, grave, and gay—making the best of the moments that remained. One thing all were agreed upon. They had enjoyed such banquets before, they hoped to enjoy others in the future, but the one in connection with the Paris Conference would ever have a place apart in their memories as a unique and unforgettable occasion.

One heard, too, on various sides, enthusiasm expressed for the organisation of the International Council of Nurses, for by no other means could nurses from all parts of the world find the opportunity of meeting together in professional conference and social intercourse. So it was with a greater realisation and appreciation than ever of the value of our International organisation that the members at last dispersed at the close of a day full of interest and unforgettable experiences.

## The International Press Dinner.

On the evening of Friday, one of the most interesting gatherings at the Conference took place, when Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Editor of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, entertained to dinner at the Hotel Normandy, her colleagues from various countries interested in the usefulness of professional journalism. There were present: Mrs. Robb, *American Journal of Nursing*; Sister Karll, Editor, *Unterm Lazaruskreuz*; Miss Genevieve Cooke, Editor, *The Nurses' Journal of the Pacific Coast*; Miss Fulmer, Editor, *The Visiting Nurse*; Miss Bella Crosby, representative of *The Canadian Nurse*; Dr. Anna Hamilton, *La Garde Malade*; Miss Van Lanschot-Hubrecht, representing *Nosokomos*; Miss J. A. Smith, *Kingston Infirmary Nurses' League Journal*; Miss Breay, Sub-Editor, and Miss M. Burr, collaborator, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. It was a very gay and happy reunion, and all were agreed that the enormous progress which of late years has been made in the international co-operation of nurses for higher standards of life and work is due in no small degree to the unity of thought and purpose which inspires the professional press, and the toast proposed by the hostess to its continued prosperity and influence was very warmly received. Over the coffee cups many happy suggestions were discussed for furthering its influence and solidarity. The absence of Mme. Gillot was greatly regretted.

## Meeting of Executive Committee.

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Council of Nurses was held at the Hotel Normandy on Friday, the 21st June. Representatives were present from Great Britain, Ireland, the United States of America, Germany, and France.

Notice was given of resolutions for alterations in the Articles of the Constitution, to be brought before the Grand Council at the next Quinquennial Meeting in 1909.

Fraulein Karll, President, German Nurses' Association, was unanimously nominated for election as President; Miss L. L. Dock and Miss Margaret Breay respectively for re-election as Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer in 1909.

It was unanimously agreed that, if convenient, the next Quinquennial Meeting of the Council should be held at Stockholm, the beautiful capital of Sweden. This matter was left in the hands of Miss Dock.

As the next meeting will include the quinquennial business meeting, when the affiliated countries will be invited to send official delegates, it is to be hoped that the existing National Councils (Federations) of Nurses will at no distant date consider the financial arrangements.

Mrs. Hampton Robb proposes that an "International Standard of Education for Nurses" should be given a prominent place in the programme, and ample time devoted to its discussion. Mrs. Robb will herself prepare the paper on this most important subject.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)