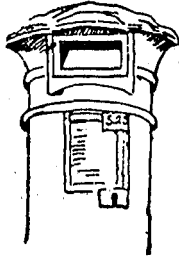


## Letters to the Editor.

### NOTES, QUERIES, &c.



*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

#### IMPRESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—In a matter of such vital importance as the care of the sick it is surprising that the English Press has chosen to ignore—almost entirely, I believe—the International Nursing Conference.

It has been my privilege to be present, and I never felt more proud of my profession in my life.

One common interest—the care of the sick—had drawn together about 350 women from all parts of the world, some of them the cream of the Nursing World. It was a wonderful sight, and made my heart throb with pleasure.

I was particularly struck with the marked cordiality which existed among us; that shyness and reserve, so characteristic of our race, was conspicuous by its absence; no one waited to be introduced; the strong bond of one common human interest had broken down this formality.

The members of this very representative gathering, talked freely, according to their inclination, to anyone, of any nation; everyone looked happy, free, and unrestrained.

The great kindness of the Paris Municipality in welcoming us, their generosity in acknowledging so frankly, that we are in advance of them, and their own earnest desire for reform, must have impressed the members of the Conference. If the French are behind us in the matter of Nursing, they are no whit behind us in acclaiming the sentiment of the *entente cordiale*. They love the word Fraternity; they proclaim it on all their public buildings, and they have shown it to us, both professionally and socially, and we have much to thank them for. It is a pity England does not follow the lead of Scotland; once a year, the Lord Provost holds a Reception for Nurses, who are encouraged by their superiors in office to attend these social gatherings.

The Paris Conference will be far-reaching in its effects; it will serve to strengthen *esprit de corps* where it is weak, and quicken the sense of the duty of co-operation and enthusiasm.

To British nurses it will, of course, especially appeal. We are not likely to forget that the foundress of the International Council of Nurses is our own compatriot.

In one word, the Paris Conference was a monumental instance of unity of purpose and solidarity of interests in a great altruistic cause.

BEATRICE KENT.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—As an "outsider," who, attended the Paris Conference, through the kind invitation to all nurses sent through your Journal by Miss Dock, I want to express my impressions, and those of many nurses who went to Paris. The chief one was gratitude for allowing us nurses who were not affiliated with the International through the National Council of England, to enjoy all the privileges of the Conference, and the official receptions, although we had done nothing to deserve it. We had given nothing, and yet every kindness and courtesy was extended to us. Those of us who belonged to no League or Society, and had not done anything to build up the splendid International Council, by either personal service or money, envied those who had helped, and who were thus privileged to wear the national badge.

The organisers of the Conference, however, showed their wisdom in permitting us to appreciate for ourselves the wonderful spirit of comradeship which inspires the International, also its fine democracy, because, although only a private nurse, the week's association with women like the hon. officers, Miss Isla Stewart (first and foremost amongst the Matrons in this country for encouraging individual effort amongst nurses), Miss Nutting, Mrs. Robb, and Miss Fulmer, Sister Karll, Dr. Anna Hamilton, and Baroness Mannerheim, made me feel proud to be a woman and a nurse. It also brought home to me my professional duty, that although a person of no importance, I was just one link in the international chain, and I must join on and clip tight the other links on either side.

Before "Stockholm" I hope the hospital where I was trained will have its Nurses' League, so that we may go there as *members* of the Conference and not as *guests*. The chief impression left on my mind is one of gratitude that in nearly every country one or two fearless, intelligent women have come out as leaders, and have put before us the very highest professional ideals. I write this to express my deep gratitude for the same.

ONE OF THE GUESTS.

#### THE REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—Having read with deep interest the articles which have appeared in the *Daily Mail* concerning "Nursing Homes" it may be of interest to your readers to know some of my experiences as a trained nurse who has worked in them.

I have found that the majority of nurses working in them have had only a year or even a few months' training. These nurses, in some cases, are charged to the patients by the Home authorities the fee of £2 2s. per week, and the patients are led to think that they are having the services of three years' certificated nurses instead of novices or students; quite as unreasonable and unfair a proceeding as for a medical student to

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