

notable event during the year in the nursing world has been the International Conference of Nurses, which took place in Paris in the month of June. All countries arranged to send representatives to meet and discuss questions which are of momentous interest to the great corporation of nurses all over the world at present, and to sympathise with the new régime of trained nursing in France. That it was a brilliantly successful and illuminating Congress all those who were so fortunate as to be able to attend its meetings have borne delighted testimony, and also to its far-reaching results. The members of the Conference were fêted and honoured by the Municipality of Paris. The heads of several Government Departments entertained them with the graceful courtesy of their race in the magnificent Hôtel de Ville, the Salpêtrière, and elsewhere in Paris. They were also invited by hostesses of wealth and distinction, noted in France for their philanthropy and benevolence, such as the Baroness James de Rothschild, Mme. Alphen Salvador, Mademoiselle Chaptal, and others, whose interest in modern trained nursing, and in the establishment of schools for the dissemination of the new ideas, is matter of universal knowledge throughout France. The representative character of the Conference, the educational value of its meetings, and the cordial feeling of amity between the members from many lands, will preserve this truly International Conference as one of the most brilliant and happy memories to those who had the privilege of being present.

"A remarkable outcome has just reached us in the shape of the January number of the *Bulletin Professionnel* (edited by Mme. P. Gillot). In the opening page of this Nursing Journal there is a greeting for the New Year, 1908, in which reference is made to the Conference of last June, and the generosity of the sentiments is as much to be admired as the charming modesty which accompanies these kind wishes."

Mrs. Treacy then quoted at length from the article, which has already been referred to in these columns, but says truly that one cannot adequately convey the charm of the sentiments which are expressed except in the beautiful tongue in which they were written.

#### RETIREMENT OF MISS HAMPSON.

She then spoke of the loss the Association had sustained during the past year by Miss Hampson's resignation of her work in Dublin and retirement to her home in England. She had been connected with the Association from its inception, and was instrumental in arranging its rules and finances.

#### PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION.

On the question of State Registration of Trained Nurses, the speaker referred not only to the increased membership of the Society, but to the various attempts to raise side issues, and thus draw off attention from the main question of legislation. "Each attempt," she says, "has been either frustrated or held in check, and the futility of these efforts to deprive nurses of their rightful representation and power to manage their own affairs has been exposed as it deserves. We need only mention the latest of these, the draft Bill to establish a Directory over nurses, and thus deprive them of effective legislation. This appears to be the most insidious of these attempts for our capture, but we trust that the present course of action by our Society will have the effect of sending this Bill in the wake of the previous efforts to exploit us. We are convinced that the only adequate means for our protection is the adoption of the recommendation of the Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1905—viz., 'That your Committee are agreed that it is desirable that a Register of Nurses should be kept by a central body, appointed by the State.'"

Mrs. Kildare Treacy then referred to the very successful meeting held in Belfast in January of the present year; when, on the invitation of Lady Hermione Blackwood, President of the Ulster Branch of the Association, she, as President of the Association, visited the northern capital with Miss Lamont, Superintendent of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute in Ireland, and addressed the members at their Club. She gave a rapid sketch of the development of trained nursing in Ireland, and spoke of the pressing need for registration by the State.

She then spoke of the public meeting recently held at Caxton Hall, London.

#### GRACEFUL EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS.

Everyone who knows the large amount of work done by sub-committees will recognise as deserved the cordial thanks conveyed by Mrs. Treacy to the various members of sub-committees of the Association during the past year.

We must also express our appreciation of the kind terms in which she alluded to this Journal, when speaking of the Press. She said: "To the daily papers, and especially to the Editor and Staff of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, our warmest thanks are due, for kind and whole-hearted advocacy of our projects on all occasions." We can assure Mrs. Kildare Treacy and the Irish Nurses' Association that it has given us much pleasure to be of use to them.

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