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Editorial.

NURSES' DAY AT THE PAN ANGLICAN CONGRESS.

Nurses' Day at the Pan Anglican Congress is one which will be long remembered by all who took part in the meeting held on Tuesday in the Great Hall of the Church House, Westminster. The hall was packed, and an overflow meeting held besides, and surely never have so many nurses in uniform assembled together before. The first speaker called upon by the Chairman, Bishop Montgomery, was the Bishop of Rhode Island, Dr. MacVickar, who said how glad he was of the opportunity afforded him of expressing the estimation in which he held the great and splendid profession to which the audience belonged. In his pastoral work he had been much associated with nurses, some of whom were amongst the best friends he had. The great mass of nurses were noble, devoted and capable women, illustrating and ennobling a noble calling.

The Bishop then spoke of vocation, and said that in days gone by the only vocations recognised by the Church were those of the monk, or of the conventual life. It merely tolerated other careers, and believed that it depended on infinite mercy to rescue those secular persons who had not entered on the monastic life. Now, thank God, the Church was wiser and better, and had learnt to regard nothing as common or unclean, the whole area of life was lit up by the Incarnation, and all lives lived in its light were lifted to a higher plane. Thus, St. John in his vision saw written even on the bridles of the horses "Holiness to the Lord." Dr. MacVickar concluded by urging his hearers to avail themselves of the chance of work in the mission field for which the Congress stands, should it offer where, he said, God's blessing awaits His servant and the crown of everlasting life.

The next speaker was Dr. Hume Griffith, of Turkish Arabia, whose earnest and impressive speech was listened to with the greatest interest. He began his remarks by saying that, from his knowledge of nurses, he did not suppose that anyone of them would expect him to preach to them, and, happily, he did not attempt to do so, but talked instead of his work, in Mosul, and gave his audience glimpses of what was waiting to be done. He told how for eight years he had been seeking to find a nurse to help him and had not done so yet. He had been asked to speak, he said, on the "Place of the Nurse in the Mission Field," but all his soul was taken up not with her place but with the great need for her services. Dr. Griffith described the work of nurses and their quiet, often silent, witness for Christ. He spoke also of the dense ignorance of the Mohammedan population amongst which he and his wife lived, and also of the quick response of the women to kindness and sympathy. There must surely have been many in the great audience who felt the appeal, not in the abstract, but in concrete, of the medical missionary who has given his life for the work and pleaded the great need for others to do likewise.

Mrs. Douglas Hooper, L.R.C.P., of Jilore, East Africa, then spoke on "Nursing as a Vocation," after which a collection for the Pan Anglican Thank Offering was made with deftness and precision by dozens of white capped nurses. The offerings were received by Bishop Montgomery in the beautiful Almsdish given as a memorial of the love which Americans bear to the Mother Church in England. It is usually kept at Lambeth Palace, and was lent by the Archbishop for the afternoon. The total amount placed by the nurses in the Almsdish was £217.

After a few closing words from Bishop Montgomery the meeting dispersed.

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