

gale, who advised him to train nurses for the work in Liverpool. The result was that, having with some difficulty persuaded the Committee of the Royal Infirmary to undertake the training of the nurses, he built, at his own expense, the Home and Training School in Ashton Street. He held strong views as to the qualifications of district nurses, and believed that they could not be too highly trained. The Liverpool Association was, in consequence, the first to insist on a minimum of three years' hospital training, with further district training, for its staff. Mr. Rathbone held that, in addition to their professional training, the nurses should be large hearted, sympathetic, and resourceful. They were more than mere attendants on the sick poor; they were social reformers and regenerators, and their influence on a household did not cease when they had finished attendance on a particular patient. They were examples of cleanliness, and order, and implanted ideals in the minds of those whom they visited which had lasting effects. In the course of their work also they co-operated with various social and municipal organisations, and were undoubtedly a social agency of the highest value. The Congress was being held for three reasons:—(1) Because it was the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the work in Liverpool; (2) for the exchange of information between the nursing associations of the world, and (3) in the hope that a great extension of the work would follow. As Chairman of the Congress Committee, Mr. Williamson concluded by offering to the delegates and visitors the heartiest welcome.

The DUKE OF ARGYLL, who was the next speaker, said that Princess Louise, as President of the Scottish Branch of the Q.V.J.I., was very anxious that he should be her interpreter. He characterised the life of a district nurse as one of bravery and gentleness, and said that the humblest experience of any of the nurses was worth a great deal of theory. He believed that the greatest possible good would result from the Congress.

His Grace concluded by saying that as it was the birthday of Florence Nightingale, Princess Louise had suggested that a telegram of congratulation should be sent to her from the Congress, a suggestion received with hearty applause.

TELEGRAM TO MISS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

The text of the message was then read by the Lord Mayor, and endorsed by the meeting, as follows:—

"On the motion of the Duke of Argyll, the Jubilee Congress of District Nursing, gathered in Liverpool from all parts of the world, offers on your birthday this message of gratitude for your work and of good wishes to yourself."

The COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN, who said she had the honour of attending the meeting as a representative of the Victorian Order of Nurses in Canada, described its work, and also spoke of the splendid work which district nurses, and especially Queen's Nurses, were doing in Ireland.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN, Chairman of the Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, in an excellent speech, said that as representing the Queen's

Institute he desired to congratulate the Association in Liverpool upon its jubilee. Liverpool was among the pioneers of district nursing, and the Queen's Institute was reaping where Liverpool had sown. Referring to the many activities of district nurses, in connection with public authorities, Lord Goschen said that there was one necessary corollary to all this great work—namely, that higher qualifications and greater efficiency were day by day demanded of their nurses throughout the country. As medical and surgical science advanced, so must the knowledge of their nurses in those directions increase. He was glad to think that they had responded so ably and courageously to the call made upon them. As a layman he was impressed by the extraordinary excellence of the work done by the nurses in difficult circumstances. They could say of their nurses that among the slums of their great cities they were fighting squalor and disease with a heroism and courage which demanded from the public the greatest praise and highest commendation.

The HON J. L. GRIFFITHS, the Consul-General of the United States in Liverpool, described the city as vibrant with human sympathy. Speaking on behalf of the foreign delegates, he pointed out that the growth of sympathy, tenderness, and love had found its highest expression in the increasing solicitude for all who suffered. The lonely path of John Howard had become a great highway travelled by thousands of men and women.

MR. HAROLD BOULTON, M.V.O., Hon. Treasurer of the Queen's Institute, proposed a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor for presiding, and MR. H. S. TRIMMS, one of the Hon. Secretaries of the Congress, in seconding, asked his acceptance of a bound copy of the handbook of the Congress as a souvenir of a most memorable evening.

One voice was silent on this first evening, that of the trained nurse, a voice insistently missed by those accustomed to professional Congresses in which she not only largely participates, but also presides over Sessions with distinction.

THURSDAY, MAY 13th.

SECTION I.

Lord Goschen presided at the opening Session of the Congress on Thursday morning, May 13th, which was very well attended, and extended a hearty welcome to all present, and especially to the foreign delegates. He read the following telegram, which was loudly acclaimed:—

MESSAGE FROM MISS NIGHTINGALE.

"On Miss Nightingale's behalf I send cordial thanks to the Duke of Argyll and District Nursing Congress for appreciation of her work and good wishes.—Louis Nightingale."

It is impossible to notice, except in the briefest way, the many papers presented, and speeches made. We shall hope to refer to some of these again at greater length.

MISS AMY HUGHES, General Superintendent, Q.V.J.I., read the first paper in this section on "The History of District Nursing in England and

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