

Dr. A. Couvée, honorary secretary to the Nederlandsche Bond voor Zickenverpleging, notifies us from Amsterdam, that Miss C. C. J. Wermich, Matron of the Zickenverpleging, Prinsengracht, Amsterdam, and a member of the Executive Committee, will also attend the Congress as a fraternal delegate.

The more there are the better pleased our Council will be.

THE DISTRICT NURSES' EXHIBIT.

The District Nurses' Exhibit, organised by Lady Hermione Blackwood, member of the Standing Committee on District Nursing of the National Council of Trained Nurses, assisted by Miss du Sautoy, and Miss E. L. C. Eden, is making good progress; indeed, the room originally allotted to it has proved too small for its requirements, and we are glad to announce it has been possible to arrange that it shall be located in Room 15, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, which is on the first floor, the same floor as the Council Chamber where the Sessions of the Congress will take place. This will give ample room for the exhibit, and we hope that all district nurses will help to make it a great success. Intending exhibitors should communicate as soon as possible with Miss du Sautoy, 16, Elm Grove, Taunton, in order that space may be arranged for the exhibits, and that correct instructions for addressing and labelling the exhibits may be forwarded to the sender.

Amongst the exhibits already promised are two model rooms and a model of a slum room "before and after."

Then a collection of dressed dolls is being formed showing various stages of nursing the poor in their own homes. Those ready or promised are as follows: Anna Serle, who nursed the poor in their own homes at Berne in the 14th century, a monk and a nun of the Nursing Orders, a plague attendant, a camp, a Sœur de Charité of St. Vincent de Paul, a deaconess, a Queen's Nurse lent by the Q.V.J.I., a Village Nurse, a German Nurse, an American Nurse, and a French Nurse. The dolls are mostly 12 inches high.

SUGGESTIONS FOR EXHIBITS.

The simplest contrivance will be welcome, and the following suggestions are made by the organisers as to exhibits which would be welcome—(1) Inventions, or models of (2) Expedients, or models of (3) District Bags, (4) Doll Models of District Nursing Costumes abroad, (5) District Nurses' modes of locomotion, (6) District Nurses' Hats (if peculiar), (7) Leaflets, Photographs, and Engravings, (8) Diagrams illustrating the Educational and Preventive Work of the District Nurse.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

ANNUAL MEETING

Despite the fact that the Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses had been unavoidably fixed for the Saturday before the Whitsuntide holiday, there was a good attendance of members at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., when Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, took the chair, and delivered her presidential address on "Solidarity."

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

As President of this Society I want to take for the text of my address the word "Solidarity," and to give it to you as your watchword for the coming year, which promises, I think, to be an important one in the long struggle for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. It is a true saying, that union is strength and that disunion is weakness, and the old, old illustration that a twig will easily break, while a faggot made of many twigs bound tightly together will not, is as true now as it ever was.

From the first this question of the State Registration of Nurses has been much misrepresented and much misunderstood. I am not going to touch an old grievance, for much of the misrepresentation and misunderstanding has been overcome, and many people who were at least indifferent to our claims in the last century are with us heart and soul in the new, as they now realise that our movement is educational and economic, and is quite as much for the benefit of the public and the medical profession as for ourselves.

Twenty-two years ago the thin edge of a wedge was driven into a great beam of prejudice and hostility, and to-day we see that wedge grown thick and strong, and the split in the beam grown wider and wider. The first blow we dealt to that beam was the formation of the R.B.N.A., at the suggestion of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick; the last blow it received was when the Prime Minister received a powerful deputation from a Woman's Society on a woman's question. True that blow was not so immediately successful as we had hoped. We hoped it would have driven our wedge straight home and split that beam in two, but though it did not do that quite, it drove the wedge in a bit, and perhaps our next effort will send it straight home.

Solidarity is an excellent thing, and is essential in any great enterprise, and when the solid mass is firm and hard, and has attained considerable size, it has almost an invincible power of resistance, and is, of course, very hard to break or disturb, but a solid, inert mass, though it presents great resistance, is of no great aggressive use. To make it of real value it must also possess the power of movement; slow it may be, but if it is certain, and moves towards its goal, compact and gathering weight as it goes, it becomes irresistible, and sooner or later all opposition must vanish before it, and it will move triumphantly to victory.

There must be an object towards which this compact, irresistible mass, like the conquering army of

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