

A Brilliant Convention of Nurses in the United States.

At the meeting of the American Federation of Nurses in Minneapolis on June 9th, the delegates to the London Congress were selected, and, at the Council Meeting later, the question of the President was decided. Miss Nutting, being unable to go to London, begged to be allowed to resign her last year of office, in order that a President could be chosen who would represent the Federation in person. The Council, deeply regretting the inability of Miss Nutting to attend, yielded to her wish, and elected Miss Goodrich, Superintendent of Nurses at Bellevue and Allied Hospitals, New York, as President of the Federation for the coming term. Miss Goodrich will go to London. The four official delegates are Miss Jane Delano, late Superintendent of Nurses at Bellevue, and who has held other responsible hospital positions, having been also chosen as the President of the Associated Alumnae of the United States for the coming year; Mrs. Hampton Robb; Miss Maxwell, Superintendent of Nurses at the Presbyterian Hospital in New York; and Miss Cadmus, Superintendent of the S. R. Smith Infirmary on Staten Island, who has had many years work as head of hospitals, and is a member of the Superintendents' Society. The American nurses will also be represented informally by a number of fraternal delegates from individual societies.

The week in Minneapolis was most brilliant and satisfactory; the meetings of the Superintendents' Society on Monday and Tuesday, June 7th and 8th, Federation Day on June 9th, and the two days of the Associated Alumnae all having been large, animated, and inspiring. The papers covered the whole range of the more distinctly new and modern problems in nursing and in organisation, and the discussions were unusually fruitful. A number of resolutions were passed looking to renewed activities; one followed a paper on Venereal Diseases, and outlined a systematic campaign of education; another affirmed the principles of the anti-alcoholic campaign as presented by the Women's Christian Temperance Union; another looks to a large and comprehensive plan of reorganisation of our societies which are fast outgrowing their present forms; others provided for renewed attention and study of the new demands for specialism in tuberculosis, social service, and visiting nursing. The need of special courses of training for the latter was clearly brought out; the growing urgency for specialism on many lines was emphasised, though with renewed insistence on the ever

greater need for thorough preliminary and general training first. A remarkable paper read by Dr. Beard, of the University of Minnesota, on the "University Training of the Nurse," outlining the course of training now established under the direction of the university, embodied all the highest ideals of the nursing profession, and by resolution it was decided to offer it to the International Congress of Nurses. Further, a list of nurses who have had college or university education was made, and each one promised to present the modern outlooks in nursing, and the call for highly cultured women, to her alma mater during the coming year. In continuation of the policy of the Associated Alumnae to buy up all the stock of the *American Journal of Nursing*, three thousand four hundred dollars were promised by subscription and a committee was appointed to present plans for the inclusion of the journal in association fees.

Miss Delano was elected President of the Associated Alumnae, as Miss McIsaac was obliged to withdraw at the last moment. Miss Nutting was elected President of the Superintendents' Society, and Miss Goodrich of the American Federation of Nurses. The societies will meet next year in New York City.

The only point on which the Federation lagged behind modern progress was on the question of suffrage, which was again voted in the negative, but by a much smaller majority than last year. The agitation of the year has had good results, and a large number of women formerly indifferent are now warm sympathisers of enfranchisement. Many, however, think it wise tactics to refrain from public declarations until our various registration bills are successfully passed—this is, actually, a severe reflection on the justice of law-makers.

The twin cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis are remarkable for their spacious and luxuriant settings of green grass and natural parks, and every moment outside of meetings was filled with sight-seeing, excursions, receptions, and visits. The Western nurses distinguished themselves by their excellent arrangements, and no one was overworked or exhausted, although the week was richly filled.

The various notices in connection with the International Council and Congress, including addresses, directions, for exhibits, etc., were announced at the Federation meeting.

The disappointment of the Congress is that we shall not have Miss Nutting with us, as we had hoped, but, in Miss Goodrich, the American Federation of Nurses has a President who will represent it with distinction and dignity.

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