

## Impressions of the Congress.

A short while ago I wrote to a sick and very depressed friend, whom I am to see soon: "I will come to you as Life, strong and forceful Life. I never felt the wonders of life, active, useful life, more keenly than in the last months of hard work for our Congress."

I was spellbound when the watchword for our next period was given: "Life, Life, Life!" Oh! there was Life in every day, every hour, every minute of this wonderful week, which never can be forgotten by anyone who has been fortunate enough to take part in it. It was Life to see all these splendid, fascinating women of so many countries uniting to uplift their beloved profession to the highest possible level for the benefit of their sick brethren and their own satisfaction. There was Life in the deep earnestness of the reports and discussions, in the sparkling humour which now and then caused peals of laughter to fill the air, and in the grand social functions. It was Life that made the ready tear well to the eyes when the darkest shadows of horror, sorrow, and pain, or deep emotion, were touched upon, and animated the same eager faces beaming between the beautiful flowers in the bright light of the banqueting hall. Life, life was the echo even in the unpleasant battle with a tactless and reactionary opponent. And Life, strong, wonderful Life shall fill the next three years till we meet again in another place, the same good friends and earnest co-workers. We all have gained so much in these days: knowledge and insight into the numerous varieties of our professional work, an ever increasing number of new friends, new hopes, new courage and inspiration for our work, often enough tiring and depressing, when it seemed rather hopeless to win the battle against illness, death, poverty, ignorance, and indifference. To realise that all we individuals, scattered over the whole world, fight the same combat, and to know there are always friends to turn to for sympathy and understanding of our worries and joys, makes the whole difference. We never can have a more comprehensive watchword for our international work, than "Life."

AGNES KARLL.

*President, International Council of Nurses,  
and German Nurses' Association.*

It is a great pleasure to me to express my personal opinion of the International Congress of Nurses, which we have just been attending. It is my conviction that this Congress has been of the greatest importance for all who understand that progress is a necessity, and that stagnation really means retrogression. I am in full sympathy with the thought of registration, and I believe it to be the best way to protect and elevate the nursing profession for the benefit of the public as well as of the nurses. I have a sincere feeling of respect and gratitude towards those women who have discussed and advocated this matter in such an excellent manner.

I beg of the Committee to accept the heartfelt thanks of the Danish delegation and of all the

Danish nurses for the stimulus and the impulse which we take back with us from this most important and delightful Congress, and I also wish to express our sincerest appreciation of the unique hospitality with which we have met.

HENNY TSCHERNING,  
*President, National Council of  
Nurses of Denmark.*

## It Was my Hour.

Some of the most valiant workers for the cause of State Registration, and all that it means to the intelligent educationalist, have put this question to me during the past week:—

"Why, when the worm-eaten futilities of those who oppose registration were expressed by an employer of nurses and not by a nurse, did you not rise and smite him hip and thigh?"

I will tell you.

Seated in the place of power, surrounded by the representatives of all that is best and wisest in our profession, from the whole civilised world, I pitied the champion of reaction and a hopeless policy.

My mind was basking in a golden haze of happiness, detached from infinitesimal things, influenced by forces intangible and indescribable, away above the earth earthy. In the abyss ignoble powers were struggling for ascendancy. Truth evolved a resistless environment. No sound reached my inner consciousness. It was my Hour. No mean thing should touch it. That was my Will!

ETHEL G. FENWICK,  
*Founder, International Council  
of Nurses.*

## International Council of Nurses.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

MADAM,—While it would not be worth while to enter into any discussion of Mr. Sydney Holland's views in general as to the International Council of Nurses, which held its meetings here last week, I am desired by the different Presidents of National Councils in membership to state that his words, intimating that some delegates felt "disappointment" on any score, are calculated to deceive the public, and are resented by our members.

It is a matter of common knowledge abroad that England has, in nursing matters, a conservative and a progressive party, and the foreign delegates are not so ill informed as to be unaware of how these parties are constituted.

Nor are the foreign delegates so vacillating in their own views and purposes as not to know with which party they are in sympathy. We came to England to meet those whose mental attitude is congenial to our own. If there are those who prefer to hold aloof, our members are sorry for them, but not surprised or disappointed.

I am, very truly,  
LAVINIA L. DOOK,  
*Hon. Secretary, International  
Council of Nurses.*

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