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Editorial.

THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONGRESS.

One of the most useful results of International Congresses is the embodiment in resolutions of decisions arrived at by members from all parts of the world, for at no other time is so representative a professional opinion obtainable.

At the meetings of the International Council and Congress of Nurses the resolutions adopted—which we have already recorded—were of vital importance.

First, the Presidents and delegates of the International Council of Nurses, including those of the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Germany, Holland, Denmark, Finland, and Canada were unanimous in recording their earnest conviction that in the interests of the professional status of trained nurses, and of the public whom they serve, provision should be made for their registration by the State. Those who wish to minimise the importance of the demand for State Registration will do well to consider this unanimous decision.

On the same day a vote of the International Council of Nurses, with only two dissentients, recorded the belief of the Council that the possession of the Parliamentary franchise, which places in the hands of women power and responsibility, will raise the standard of women's work, and, in consequence, increase the professional efficiency of trained nurses.

The resolutions of the Congress, which were voted upon by all present, included one inviting the International Council of Nurses to form a Standing Education Committee, and action has been taken on this resolution, Mrs. Hampton Robb accepting the chairmanship of the committee thus formed.

Another resolution supported the convening of a Conference on Mental Nursing

in London to discuss this important branch of nursing.

The next resolution adopted recommended that each National Association of Nurses in membership with the International Council of Nurses should appoint a Standing Committee on Morality and Public Health, which, amongst other things, should put itself into communication with national societies concerned with moral prophylaxis, and should urge more careful teaching of nurses in hospitals on morality and public health questions.

The Congress, by resolution, also urged upon Government Departments responsible for Prisons, that warders and wardresses should be systematically trained for their duties, and expressed its collective opinion that they should be instructed in the elements of general and personal hygiene and the underlying principles of physical and psychological nursing.

It will be seen, therefore, that the Congress not only took a broad survey of the questions which affect the nursing world, but also realised very seriously the obligations of the nursing profession to the community. The dominant feeling was that the nurse of the future, if she is to do her duty, must not only share in the restoration of the sick to health, but must keep herself in touch with movements concerned in maintaining and raising the standard of national health. In short, that as a good citizen and patriot, she must bring to the service of her country all the knowledge which she has acquired, all the intelligence by which she may add to that knowledge, in order that, in some degree, the world may be healthier and happier for her work. Further, that such work, if it is to be most effective, cannot be individual and isolated, but be shared with others, for while individual action is limited in extent, co-operative action is strong and forceful.

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