

partner. Nurses were constantly learning from medical men, but they should not expect instruction from them on nursing matters that they should have had in their own schools, and the instruction there received should be augmented by observation and experience; but they could not expect the medical man to take up his time in teaching nurses their work. Medicine and nursing were so intimately connected that it was impossible to dissociate them. They must go hand in hand, and provided each of them was aiming at the highest there would be no strained relations.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SESSION said that the case of the two professions was really that of the lock and the key. She felt such a great admiration for the medical profession, and such a deep love for her own, that she was impelled to add these few words. She had always found the greater the man the greater the woman. The greater the humility the greater the courtesy.

The session closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Miss Goodrich for presiding, proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

#### THE CANADIAN DELEGATES AT WINDSOR

Miss M. A. Snively has been informed by the Lord Chamberlain that her telegram of appreciation of His Majesty's permission to visit Windsor Castle, together with the address of thanks from the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses, has been submitted to the King.

### The Patriot Nurse.

In the current number of *The Englishwoman* the Hon. Albinia Brodrick contributes an article under the above heading on the International Council of Nurses. It is one which should be read by every nurse, and its title implies its keynote—that in all the various branches of nursing, not only in that which concerns the sick sailors and soldiers, which we most commonly regard as the patriotic branch of our profession, the nurse who serves her country well is a true patriot.

Miss Brodrick writes:—

“The wakening of our profession throughout the civilised world to a deep sense of what we each of us owe individually, not merely to our patient, to our hospital, or to our guild, nor even to our country itself, but rather to the whole of humanity, is proceeding coevally with the wise and much-needed development of training methods and of scientific knowledge, and the cultivation of a high professional ideal amongst us. We stand on the brink of a great and bloodless revolution, the agitation for which has proceeded steadily and exclusively from within.”

Again:—“It was the most striking point in a series of unusually able papers read before the Congress, from many countries of the world, from the United States, from France and Germany, from our own country, from Canada, this grasp of the fact that before the nursing profession lies a responsibility in the future from which it cannot turn

aside without loss of honour—the burden of the health of the race.

“This is essentially a woman's question, to be faced not with that womanly patience and endurance which are a part of our great inheritance, but instead, with a militant hopefulness, a resistless forward movement, made in close union with our sisters of all nations under the sun, and in which the nurses of the United States have shown us so brilliant an example. This is patriotism as we reckon it: that, come weal or woe, come peace or strife, in the training school as on the field of battle, in hospital work, in the district, in the home of the rich as in the one-roomed tenement, in the factory, in the prison, in the workhouse, in the mission-field, we are banded together at all times, and with all our powers of mind and body, not merely to succour the sick in body and the diseased in mind and spirit; beyond and above all that, to undermine the conditions which lie at the root of disease.”

Then the writer points out that “Far back before the birth of the new little citizen the patriot nurse's work begins. . . . In the schools, above all, those diseases which are the direct product of dirt and of immorality must be sought out, and preventive measures against their spreading instantly adopted. There are some which the doctor cannot well meet, because no one will give him the necessary information. There are others of which he says only, ‘It is there,’ and the nurse must do the rest. With the eye of a falcon and the heart of an angel the patriot nurse must cleanse and disinfect, and warn and teach, that not only the child of the present may be healed, but that that child of the future, of which he or she is potentially the parent, may enter upon life with the goodly heritage to which it has a right—the heritage of health.”

Let those who say that school nursing is a branch of our profession, unworthy of the abilities and skill of the fully-trained nurse, ponder these words, and see whether the writer has not placed before them the ideal of life, which the most highly trained nurse might be proud to live. We may go about with scales on our eyes, blind to the obvious possibilities before us, but once those scales are removed we shall enter into our heritage.

In regard to the district nurse “she is, or ought to be, guide and counsellor to every home that she enters. She is both a power and a prophet, and but for the limitations of her training and of her individual character, her influence would be almost unbounded. The charitable and kindly rich, who underpay her, would be astonished could they know (which they never will) what a power for the good of humanity that one woman may be, provided she brings to her work the qualifications they would prefer to find absent: an enlightened intelligence, a clear judgment, and—the only one which will never be grudged to her—an untiring willingness of self-sacrifice.”

Those who heard Miss Brodrick read her own paper on the Friday morning of the Congress must have felt that they were listening to one inspired by a true sense of patriotism. This, indeed, was evident in the reception it received.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)