

Impressions of the Congress.

As we turn away from the country that has given us so overwhelmingly gracious a reception to face again the daily, even hourly, anxieties attendant upon the work of our profession, it matters not in what field it lies, we are confronted with two great facts: That to us as a profession has been given the opportunity of seeing life, stripped of all its artificialities, magnificent in its possibilities, crippled, deformed, almost hideous in its deficiencies; and with the knowledge that has torn the veil from our eyes has been given also a knowledge of preventive and curative measures that imposes a heavy burden of responsibility forbidding us "to pass by on the other side."

But if we are returning awakened to greater responsibilities we are also returning with a renewed inspiration in our work that it would be difficult to destroy.

As woman after woman rose in that assemblage, strong and earnest and self-reliant, splendid types of womanhood, we knew that there could be but one result of their efforts—organisations whose power for good in the community could not easily be estimated, whose recognition by the State—slow of action, mistaken sometimes, but whose high purpose can not be questioned—will only be a matter of time.

ANNIE W. GOODRICH,
President, American Federation of Nurses.

My impressions of the Quinquennial International Congress of Nurses, held last week in London, England, have been that it was a rare privilege to have been permitted to be present at its various sessions, and that for the use of this added talent the nurses of the world will one day require to give an account.

That if those who attended this Congress do not return to their various fields of work wiser, stronger, broader, and more useful women than when they came it will be their own fault. I have been profoundly impressed with the wonderful scope and far-reaching purpose which the work of trained nursing affords to those who are ready to make the necessary preparation, and avail themselves of the opportunities for service which are opening in every direction; and I am persuaded that what to-day is implied in the words "trained nurse" will not in the future be considered worthy of the name.

Also that, more fully than ever before, am I persuaded that the essential qualities which go to make up a good woman are the only true and fitting foundations on which should be reared the great super-structure of a nursing education.

That the forecast for the future of the prisoner, the alms-house patient, the mentally diseased, and hopeless, fallen woman is full of hope and promise.

That as women are endowed with qualities which not only enable them to desire to be of use in the world, to make it brighter, cleaner, purer, and happier, but are also peculiarly endowed with abilities which enable them to set the proper forces in motion which will bring about these desired results, they ought, therefore, to have a voice in

the making of the laws, as well as a heart to feel for the needs of the people.

That the great work to which this great Congress is pledged is of God, and therefore will ultimately prevail.

MARY A. SNIVELY,
President, Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses.

MY DEAR MADAM PRESIDENT,—In this great work that is being done by nurses in almost every country in the world there are many problems that seem to us our own peculiar cross or grievance; our successes are more easily and happily borne. The benefit that can be derived from an interchange of thought, ideas, and actual experiences has been deeply impressed upon me at this last great Quinquennial Congress of Nurses, held in London. As fraternal delegates from a country whose customs, language, climate, and geographical position partially isolates us from the great nursing world, we carry back to Cuba a far more valuable asset than you realise, and are strengthened by the inspirations which emanated from the hearts and minds of the capable, self-controlled, and eminently well-fitted women who are the leaders of the greatest work of women in the world to-day. We return deeply impressed by the earnestness and deep interest shown in trying to solve the problems that confront us, and the practical way in which they were handled, by the progress which is being made on nursing lines and its branches, by the sincere bond of friendship that existed when discussing questions of vital importance to their profession, and by the hospitality extended to us as your guests, that will ever make us your debtors. I would like to say more, but think that if we go and do better than before, we may more effectually prove our sincerity. Thanking you again for all the kindness shown the Cuban delegates,

I am, ever yours sincerely,
M. EUGENIE HIBBARD.
Fraternal Delegate from the Government of Cuba.

I have pleasure in giving my impressions of the Nurses' Congress, as they were most favourable.

I found the gatherings extremely interesting—they made us all realise the value of our profession and inspired us with new strength to continue the struggle for high standards of training and State Registration, in which the Dutch Nurses' Association believes so fully, and to which there is the same opposition upon the part of many hospital governors and matrons in Holland as there is in England. We also realised it to be our duty to elevate our profession as much as possible.

We thought everything very well arranged, and those men who say "women cannot organise" could have learnt a lesson from the women who made everything work so smoothly.

Further, we were struck by the great hospitality of the English nurses and their friends. We think they were very, very kind to us, and really spoiled us a little.

C. J. TILANUS,
President, Dutch Nurses' Association.

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