

International Congress of Nurses.

THURSDAY, JULY 22nd.

2 to 4 p.m.

THE NURSE AS PATRIOT.

MISS ISLA STEWART presided at the Church House on the afternoon of Thursday, when the Right Honble. R. B. Haldane, K.C., M.P., Secretary of State for War, honoured the Congress by addressing it.

GREETINGS OF THE NURSES OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

The following letter was received from Miss Hasson, Superintendent of the Nurse Corps of the United States Navy:—

To the Delegates and Members of the International Congress of Nurses, London, England.

The Chief Nurses and Nurses of the United States Navy join with me in sending cordial greetings and all good wishes for the success both of the Congress and of "The Nurse as Patriot."

ESTHER V. HASSON,
Superintendent, Nurse Corps, United States Navy.

Miss Stewart said that she felt very much the honour conferred on her in asking her to preside at the Session of the Congress which would be addressed by the Minister for War.

Mr. Haldane had been inspired with the idea of calling on the men of the country to form a Territorial Army, and he had further been inspired to ask the women to help him. He had created an Advisory Board in connection with the War Office, and all over the country Ladies' Committees which were in close connection with the committees that enrolled the staff for the Territorial Nursing Service. Mr. Haldane had recognised nurses as the only women who, by training, were qualified to assist their country in time of danger. To them came the honour of removing the reproach that women were of no use in time of war. In the event of war, or, still worse, of invasion, all women felt the hardest part of their duty was to stay at home while their

men went out to fight. That was not so with nurses. Though they did not draw the sword and handle the gun, yet they fought under their officers of the Army Medical Corps against disease and death, and that honour was not theirs just because they were willing to help; all women in time of war or invasion were willing to do that; it was given to them because they were trained experts and qualified to help. Miss Stewart then asked Mr. Haldane to address the meeting.

THE RIGHT HONBLE. R. B. HALDANE, K.C., M.P., SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR, whose speech was from time to time punctuated with questions on woman's suffrage, and the

removal of the questioners by the stewards, said that it was a great pleasure to be at this International Congress, for a very special reason. We always had to learn from our neighbours and friends over seas, and very often we had nothing to show on our side, but we had at the present moment in this country, in the course of development, a movement which was in many respects unique. We were organising home defence on a scientific basis, and were making the general arrangements for the organisation of the Citizen Army as complete in all its branches as that of the Regular Army. Now that new force was being raised on a basis



The Secretary of State for War addressing the Nurses' Congress.

which was not familiar on the Continent of Europe. It was being raised on the footing of purely voluntary service, and that enabled us to have a greater freedom in certain respects than we should have were it raised by a law compelling people to fulfil what is certainly a moral duty in case of great national emergency. The War Office was asking for the voluntary services of every class of the community whose skilled services could be utilised.

In the case of serious invasion one of the most important elements which had to be provided for was the care of the sick and wounded, not merely on the ground of humanity, though

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