

we find that the Congress week stands out clear and bright, as one of exceptional opportunities. How much we have learnt of what has been done, what is doing, and how very much remains to be done! The Committee for the International Standard of Nursing Education have splendid work before them, and it makes one long to be 20 years younger, to be trained under a system which is sure to come. In telling our less fortunate sisters in Ireland of all they have missed, we had the greatest pity for them, for the great loss they have had.

But to go to the foundation, we feel that we all owe you the very greatest gratitude for the splendid idea of founding an International Council of Nurses. May you and it long live and prosper.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

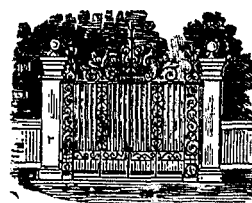
A. CARSON RAE,  
Lady Superintendent,  
Cork Street Fever Hospital, Dublin.

I hardly know how to express my impressions of the Congress. It was altogether delightful, most interesting, invigorating, and inspiring. It was a great pleasure to meet so many members of our profession from other lands and to hear of their difficulties and successes, and also many colleagues working in the British Isles. I wish every Matron in the Kingdom had been present! I was delighted that the predominant note should be *education*. Since new fields of work are opening for us and greater knowledge and skill demanded, it is evident that there is ample room in the nursing world for the refined, high-minded, well educated, and practical woman, but none for the incapable and indifferent. The Congress has strengthened our conviction that a high moral and professional standard can only be maintained by co-operation of the members of all different branches and sections of our profession, especially of Matrons and Superintendents of Nursing, and by establishing a minimum standard of certification for all. The need for better training being so great it is most important that Matrons and Sisters (who are responsible for the teaching of practical nursing, and for the training, as far as may be, of the character of the nurse), should themselves be carefully selected from the best educated and best trained, and also that more time should be given for the teacher to teach and for the pupil to learn. The educational process must, therefore, spread to the Governors and Committees of Hospitals, and to the public, in order that the ever-increasing work of the Hospital, as a place of treatment for the sick, shall not be allowed to swamp another part of its work (of almost equal national importance), the training and education of nurses. Nurses in training in our English hospitals are at present regarded too much as employees, and too little as pupils. When it is fully realised what short-sighted policy is the present over working of both teachers and pupils in most of our nursing schools, I feel sure that a way will be found to meet the next difficulty, *i.e.*, that of finance.

E. M. MUSSON,  
President, the General Hospital,  
Birmingham Nurses' League.

## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



Women were much in evidence at a Congregation of the University of Birmingham; seven were included in the Vice-Chancellor's procession, one was presented for the Degree of Master of Science,

four for the Degree of Bachelor of Science, twenty-five for the Degree of Master of Arts, eight won valuable scholarships and exhibitions, and two gained money prizes.

We have on several occasions drawn attention to the degradation which will be placed on white women in South Africa if the franchise is granted to black men and denied to white women. Miss Flora Gaythorne, writing from Natal to a contemporary, says:—

“Do we, who know and love our country, realise the significance of this woman's subjection clause in the new union of South Africa—realise that we women will be forced to submit to an administration of Government by white and black males only—sunk to a political level lower than the black. The idea is sufficiently lowering to incense the most ignorant of women who know anything of the native or the relations of the black and white races in our country. Do our legislators, I wonder, realise the effect and result of this idea upon the minds of the black population—educated or otherwise? The vote will of necessity raise the black man and give him power—but the white women under the new union will sink to a level which is calculated to inspire the educated black man with contempt. Think of the results of this indisputable fact! How do they bear upon the relations of white and black? You, who have experience of what was known in Natal and South Africa as the native question—you who understand the native better perhaps than our legislators do, must realise that the social and political question of black and white—what they are, what they are going to be—is the thing by which South Africa will stand or fall. . . . I have nothing to say with regard to native representation. It is, we know, impossible to educate the native and not give him representation. What I emphatically state is that we women of South Africa, who have years of civilisation to plead for us, feel ourselves degraded and outraged by our utter exclusion from the new Constitution. We remember our long war and how we women—English and Dutch—stood shoulder to shoulder with our men, fought and suffered and died together in the same cause for freedom and independence. We counted the sacrifices made as nothing—such is the unity and loyalty of woman to man. It is not possible to-day for our countrymen to refuse to stand by us when we demand that same right of justice and freedom without incurring the comment and criticism of the world.”

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