

for people requiring nerve rest as a result of over-work, spoke strongly of the great need for some provision for the sick poor of the cultured classes, to whom refined treatment was so essential.

Miss Young, late of St. Thomas's Hospital, spoke of difficulties she had experienced in caring for patients belonging to the cultured classes, who had been obliged to resort to public hospitals, and who could not afford to pay the fees charged in the private department.

Finally, suggestions were made to start a hospital for paying patients on graduated lines, including those in general wards, those sharing rooms, and those occupying private rooms. The funds to be raised (1) on a business basis, and the profits to be used for enlarging the work, or (2) by several nurses clubbing together to start a large nursing home, each nurse being in charge of a special department, *i.e.*, medical, surgical, children's, maternity, rest cure. Thus the expenses and risk would be minimised, and at the same time more adequate provision made for the needs of the public.

The Congress and After.

If, as the poet says, "we live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths; in feelings, not in figures on a dial," then we, who had the privilege of attending the Congress, have, in this ethical and psychological sense of that pregnant word, *lived*.

It must have taught us many things. First, perhaps; the immense importance of confederacy; its great possibilities and opportunities of mutual aid by mutual intercourse; its charming socialism, which, together with the business sessions, were the two principal ingredients of the Congress.

It was an impressive display of the effect of solidarity of interests, not on the part of one country only, but of *fifteen*, and out of that number seven have federated themselves, not from any self-interested motives of commerce or industry, but from the pure motive of furthering the cause of the sick and suffering. Is not this the right kind of socialism? It is a wonderful and beautiful thought. The Congress has tapped the professional weather glass, and found it "set fair." We have created a precedent in the history of nursing. Never before have seven countries affiliated themselves into a great nursing confederacy. The cause of the sick has now *sevenfold* strength.

I was not present when our friend the enemy threw the apple of discord right into the harmonious gathering on the first day of the Congress. When I was told of it I felt naturally indignant, but upon reflection I think it is more likely to have done good than harm; in

fact, we know it has; it has been an eye opener to many who have hitherto known little or nothing of the pertinacious opposition with which our leaders, the reformers, have had to contend for so many years. It has shown us how great is the force of vested interest and autocratic power—the very greatest obstacle in the path of reform.

But I am a firm believer in the maxim, "Right must triumph." It *must*, of course, and always does in the end, simply because it is right.

So State Registration for nurses must come, because that is what it stands for—*Right*.

How very interesting it will be to watch the results of this International Congress! We feel sure that nothing but good will follow it. For a week we picked each other's brains and learnt what was best in others and worst in ourselves; we have broadened the corporate mind of the profession. That in itself is a great advance and great development.

Our minds and our hearts were tuned up to concert pitch, the pitch of sweet music, during the Congress week. Enthusiasm kept our hearts aglow.

Enthusiasm is a beautiful word, when one thinks of its derivation—*en theos*, God in us. Fires quickly die down unless constantly replenished with fuel, and I think we should have much to reproach ourselves for if we allowed the enthusiasm aroused in us by our splendid Congress to die down into apathy.

We must rally round our leaders, who have done, and are doing, so much for our profession.

One of the lessons I have learnt during the Congress—or, rather, I have learnt it more thoroughly—is the danger and the irreligiousness of a *narrow mind*. We have been told, have we not, that order, organisation, and articulation are necessary to progress and reform; and, with the good professional journals that so many countries now have, we, the rank and file of the profession, have very much less excuse now for getting out of touch with affairs than we had many years ago.

With regard to the social side of the Congress, we have renewed and cemented former friendships and found new friends.

I have had much pleasant social intercourse with Sister Agnes Karll since the Congress, and I still hear the echo of her words as I said "Auf Wiedersehen" at Victoria Station: "I could not have done my work but for the International Council."

"Man sieht sich und man lernt sich kennen; Man liebt sich, und man musst sich trennen."

BEATRICE KENT.

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