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Editorial.

WELCOME TO OUR COMRADES.

As our International Congress of Nurses approaches, it is evident that some of the brightest, most progressive, and most distinguished women in the nursing world at home and abroad, are responding to its call, and will combine to make it the most representative, as well as important, of the Congresses which have yet been held in connection with the meetings of the International Council of Nurses. As the official organ of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, it is our privilege, on this historic occasion, to extend in its name a most cordial greeting to our foreign and Colonial guests.

The foundation principles of the Council—Order, Organisation, Unity—have never been more apparent than now. Order—in the desire which will find expression in Mrs. Hampton Robb's paper on the first day of the Congress, urging the establishment of an International Standard of Nursing Education, so that the term trained and registered nurse shall imply the attainment of the same standard of nursing education all the world over. Organisation—exemplified in the ability of nurses to convene and organise such a Congress through their professional journals, and Unity, inasmuch as the spirit which animates our International Council has always been one of goodwill and friendship between the nurses who have banded themselves together to further the efficient care of the sick and the honour and the interests of the nursing profession.

It is already certain that the National Council of Trained Nurses of this country will have the happiness of welcoming in international fellowship official delegates from the United States of America, Germany, Holland, Finland, Denmark and Canada, as well as fraternal delegates from

the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association and its Tasmanian Branch, from the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, from Belgium, Canada, Cuba, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. Such a gathering of nurses cannot take place without its influence on the nursing world being far reaching and momentous, and we look forward with hopefulness to an uplifting of ideals and practical standards.

As we look back on past Conferences, we can see definite results of each. Those of Buffalo, Berlin, Paris, each had their special lesson. Our hope is that the London Congress will gather up these lessons, and bring them to still greater fruition, and that it also will have its own special message for us. It is much that we shall, for one week, escape from a national environment, that we shall listen to reports of nursing progress from fresh aspects, shall hear how in a number of countries the services of our profession are necessary to various departments of State, and that, therefore, it behoves us to equip ourselves, to the fullest extent, in our power for the responsibilities which devolve upon us. We enter upon the coming Congress with the eloquent words of the Director of the *Assistance Publique* in Paris as he bade the Conference farewell still in our ears. "Frontiers do not exist for nurses. This is the tie which unites us—humanity. It will always be a great consolation to us—the great teaching of your Congress—that we are compatriots of the same country, of the country where men suffer, and, alas, die also, the country of misery and sickness. From your Association, the great family of nurses will arise stronger and more united. Its members will aid one another in fighting evil, and banishing hate. This great fraternity of the peoples will hold out its hand to assist, to help and to heal."

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