

a nation is only forceful in so far as it is morally and physically sound.

It is our good fortune that while others concern themselves with matters of high policy, and may have recourse to force of arms, under no circumstances can the sick and wounded be *our* enemies. War to the death cannot affect the primary duty of the trained nurse; wherever the sick have need of us it is our duty to serve them, and we can do so the more effectively because there is no nationality in nursing. The skill required by trained nurses is identical, so that we shall open our Congress to-morrow with a discussion upon "The International Standard of Nursing Education."

A profession of such fine ideals, and far-reaching influence, must be formed of the finest human material. We need the very flower of womanhood to maintain these ideals. In the near future I predict that only those can hope to excel in our profession who possess refined and cultured breeding, a liberal education, vigorous physical energy, noble qualities of mind, deep well springs of human sympathy, gracious manners, a sensitive public spirit, and a splendid conviction of right.

The practice of nursing in the future will not be restricted to a few years' mechanical training in hospital wards, and subsequently to a more or less narrow sphere of influence, but under a comprehensive curriculum, defined by State authority, it will attain a definite value to the community. So much of the moral welfare of the people depends on sanitary conditions, that a nurse who grasps her opportunities should find herself in intimate touch with her fellow creatures. It is not sufficient that she should be the instrument for the relief of suffering, she must also be the harbinger of its prevention.

Inspired by a fine militant spirit, she will make determined war upon the fundamental wrongs which conduce to low vitality and physical deterioration, and she will appreciate that the beneficent scheme of life is embosomed in light and beauty. She will proclaim that health and happiness are synonymous, and will teach fearlessly that the well-spring of life must be pure—to contaminate it a crime; and that the life-giving elements are the common rights of the community.

In the teaching of health's law we shall ourselves enter into the fuller complement of life.

#### OUR WATCHWORD.

For the third time, and the last, I have the honour to give to this powerful confederation of workers, the watchword for the next quinquennial period. The word is "Life." Life in its depth, variety, and majesty—a very sweet

and precious gift. Life of which we do well to gauge the value of single minutes.

The mere passing of time is not life. It has been written: "To eat, and drink; and sleep, to be exposed to the darkness and the light; to pace round the mill of habit, and turn the wheel of wealth; to make reason our book-keeper, and convert thought into an implement of trade; this is not life. In all this but a poor fraction of the consciousness of humanity is awakened, and the sanctities still slumber which make it most worth while to be.

Knowledge, truth, love, beauty, goodness, faith, alone give vitality to the mechanism of existence."

To be conscious of the true essentials of life, to cherish them, and thus cultivate the sanctities is necessary to the fulness of being.

"Life's a great spirit and a busy heart. He most lives

Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best."

Comrades, until our next happy meeting, I wish you vital hours.

The minutes of the last Quinquennial Meeting were taken as read.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT.

Miss M. Breay, Hon. Treasurer, then presented the financial report for the past Quinquennial period, which showed that the income of the Council has in the past been derived from the liberality of individuals, but that this year it had received the annual dues of Affiliated Councils, and for the future would derive its reliable income from this source. The balance in hand at the close of the Quinquennial period was £16 14s.

On the proposition of Miss Dock, seconded by Miss Mollett, the Report was adopted.

#### REPORTS OF THE FEDERATED COUNCILS.

Reports were then presented from the Federated Councils.

*Great Britain and Ireland.*—Miss Isla Stewart, *ex-officio* member of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, presented this report, as the President was occupying the chair. The report announced the formation of the National Council since the last Quinquennial Meeting, when the United Kingdom was represented by a Provisional Committee. It explained that the interests of the various sections were represented by Standing Committees, which also furnish the Executive Committee with reports on matters worthy of note in the branches which they severally represent, and that in this way it is hoped to accumulate information of general professional interest, accessible through the International Council of Nurses to all National Councils. It also enumerated the societies forming the National Council, which have a combined membership of nearly 5,000 nurses.

*Germany.*—Sister Agnes Karll, R.N., President

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