

were present in this hall yesterday will remember four other nations were affiliated to this International Council, and that we have with us fraternal delegates from many other countries. The essential spirit of the International Council of Nurses is that of self-government. Nurses who appreciate their profession and take themselves seriously now begin to realise that the time of tutelage is past and that women are now fitted to take up such positions in the world as are held by many of those here present, and also capable of governing themselves. We also realise that in professions as well as in individuals the highest and the greatest point of perfection is only attained when we do govern ourselves. Under tutelage no one ever attains to the best that is in them. Moreover, these Congresses bring together nurses of all nations, and they form a means of communication which not only widens the nurse's views, but deepens sympathy and makes them greater human beings. Moreover, I believe that these Congresses are no unimportant step towards that great universal peace, when swords shall be turned into ploughshares. Ladies, I have much pleasure in again bidding you welcome, and in declaring this Congress open.

The Chairman then announced a number of kind letters and telegrams from friends, including those from Miss McGahey, last President of the Association, from Sydney, expressing her heartfelt regret at being unable to participate in it; from Miss Mill, Hon. Vice-President, Bombay; Miss Child, Hon. Vice-President, South Africa; Miss Nutting, U.S.A., whose absence is so sincerely regretted by everyone; Miss Nevins, Garfield Hospital; and a most kindly telegram from Sir William Macewen, Glasgow, in which he wishes the Congress heartiest success and God speed in their humanitarian work.

Mrs. Fenwick also announced the following letter from M. Mesureur, Director of the Assistance Publique, Paris:—

Administration Générale de l'Assistance
Publique à Paris.
Cabinet du Directeur,
Paris, le 16 Juin, 1909.

MADAME LA PRÉSIDENTE,—

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître qu'à mon grand regret il me sera impossible de me rendre au Congrès de Londres, mais je m'y ferai représenter par M. André Mesureur, Chef du Service de la Direction de l'Administration Générale de l'Assistance Publique à Paris, qui prendra la parole au banquet du 21 courant en mon nom et au nom de l'Administration.

La délégation de l'Assistance Publique sera ainsi composée:—

M. André Mesureur, Chef du Service de la

Direction, Secrétaire Général adjoint du Conseil Supérieur de l'Assistance Publique, professeur à l'École des Infirmières.

M. Enjolras, Directeur de la Salpêtrière.

Madame Jacques, Surveillante Générale de l'École des Infirmières de l'Assistance Publique.

Mlle. G. Procopé, Professeur à l'École des Infirmières.

Mlles. Hayet, Blondeau, Soulier, Fraval, Reccheton, Bessières, Chaumont, élèves de l'École.

Les délégués de l'Assistance Publique porteront la cocarde bleu et rouge de la ville de Paris.

Veillez agréer, Madame la Présidente l'assurance de mon profond respect.

G. MESUREUR,

Le Directeur de l'Administration Générale
de l'Assistance Publique.

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES TO THE CONGRESS.

She then enumerated the numerous distinguished delegates attending the Congress, including some recent arrivals, the Countess A. de Villegas and Dr. van Swieten, sent by the Belgian Government, and Mme. Paul Terlinden and the Countess M. d'Oultremont, who accompanied them; Miss S. F. Palmer, Editor of the *American Journal of Nursing*, and Miss Palmer, from the Wellington Nurses' Association, New Zealand.

Mrs. Fenwick then called upon Mrs. Hampton Robb to read her paper on "The International Standard of Nursing Education."

AN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL STANDARD FOR NURSES.

MRS. HAMPTON ROBB said: To redeem a promise made some two years ago, and as a peg upon which I hope may be hung a discussion whose ultimate outcome may be the appointment of an International Educational Committee, I beg to offer a few brief suggestions on the need of an International Educational Standard for Nurses.

While attending special meetings of the International Council in Paris, and while listening to the papers and discussions on the various problems connected with nursing, both in public and private, I was naturally at once struck by the fact that speakers and listeners were handicapped because they had difficulty in understanding the various foreign languages. But later on it became evident to me that we were still more seriously hampered by the lack of a common nursing language. I mean by this that the methods and the ways of regarding nursing problems were, in many respects, as foreign to the various delegations as were the actual languages, and the thought occurred to me that if we ever hoped to gain any marked definite good and advancement from these international gatherings, if we hoped ever to actually realise the aims of the International Council, one of which is "to confer upon ques-

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