

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

When the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses joined the International Council of Nurses at the Quinquennial Meeting, held in London in 1909, it did so as a provisional organization. Since its formation at Ottawa in 1908 twenty-one societies have become affiliated to this provisional association, including one society of training school superintendents, two provincial associations of graduate nurses, six city associations of graduate nurses, and twelve nurses' training school alumnae associations, a record which the Hon. Secretary, Miss F. Madeline Shaw, might well submit with pride to the Triennial Meeting of the Association, held at Niagara Falls, Ontario, this summer.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

The President, Miss M. Agnes Snively, who presided at the meeting, of which a full report is published in the current issue of *The Canadian Nurse*, delivered an eloquent and impressive address in which she said in part:—

In welcoming you to the first Triennial Convention of the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses it seems fitting that we should all seek inspiration for the work we have happily been called upon to perform by remembering that we are convened on historic ground—ground hallowed by the blood of our heroic ancestors, as well as by that of the brave and devoted soldiers of our sister nation. The scene of the battle of Lundy's Lane is marked by the little church and graveyard in the near vicinity of our place of meeting, in which many a Canadian and American hero now sleeps. In paying this tribute to the honoured memory of the brave and loyal men who died at the post of duty one hundred years ago, we do well to consider that in the particular field of work in whose interests we are gathered the same qualities are requisite for success—viz., self-sacrifice or self-forgetfulness, loyalty to duty and heroism—as those which characterized the brave soldiers of the war of 1812.

“Therefore, though few may praise, or help, or heed us,

Let us work on with head, or heart, or hand,
For that we know that future ages need us,
And we must help our time to take its stand.”

Wendell Phillips once said: “If you will only multiply the smallest force by time enough, it will equal the greatest; so it is with the slow intellectual movement of the masses. It can scarcely be seen, but is a constant movement. It is the shadow on the dial—never still, though never seen to move. It is the tide—it is the ocean, gaining on the proudest bulwarks that human

art or strength can build. It may be defied for a moment, but in the end it always triumphs.” The reports which will be presented for consideration, together with what we learn from various publications, enable us to comprehend how rapidly Canadian nurses are awakening to a realization of their privileges and obligations in the matter of organization, registration, and affiliation, to say nothing of the activity manifested in all our larger cities and towns in all the various branches of social service for which the education and training of nurses makes them peculiarly adapted. Although we are many years behind the mother country in all matters pertaining to social service, and still further behind our American sisters in State recognition and registration, we are conscious of a change of attitude not only among nurses, but also on the part of the general public.

Given unity among nurses, and a thoroughly intelligent understanding on their part of all that registration involves, together with the sympathy and co-operation of an enlightened public, the cause of registration cannot fail of accomplishment in the near future in our fair Dominion.

In many and various ways, as teachers, advisers, or demonstrators in the home, present-day nurses assist in promulgating the great principles underlying good health, as well as in seeking to aid those who are suffering from disease, thus becoming potent factors for good in the development of the nation. Who amongst us would attempt to estimate the sum total of good to the human race resulting from the life of that great and noble nurse, Florence Nightingale?

This being true, what shall be said of the infinite possibilities for the uplifting of our people, and how great may be the work accomplished by this National Association of Trained Nurses, if we reckon it our duty and high privilege, not only to nurse the sick, but to take advantage of every opportunity to instil and inculcate by precept and example the great principles underlying right living or the conservation of health; carry those principles into the homes of all who live in our great and rapidly growing cities, to the hardy inhabitants on our Atlantic and Pacific sea-boards, and to our native and foreign population resident throughout the vast stretch of territory lying between the two great oceans.

That great and good man, Phillips Brooks, once said, “We are our best when we try to be it not for ourselves alone, but for our brethren; and we take God's gifts most completely when we realize that He sends them to us for the benefit of other men, who stand beyond us needing them.”

OFFICIAL REPORTS.

The Reports of the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Miss F. Madeline Shaw, for the years 1908–1911 were presented by Miss R. Stewart, Superintendent of Nurses at the Toronto General Hospital, as was that prepared by Miss Nora

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