

have to burn down—often suffering hard privations meanwhile—before they can begin to build up. This is known as “blazing the trail.” That has been your part. Their second work is to clear the prairies. It is this which you have left for us.

When we founded our National Associated Alumnae (the American Nurses' Association) thirteen of the School Alumnae Associations were affiliated together in it. Now, in our great national organisation, we have 150 Alumnae Associations, 40 State Societies, as well as County Associations, comprising in all 15,000 members. It was on the invitation of this Association that the International Council of Nurses held a Congress in Buffalo ten years ago, where many American nurses first met Miss Isla Stewart, and where an impetus was given to the movement for State Registration of Nurses in America, so that 30 States have secured Registration Laws since that time, most of which are controlled by Boards of Nurse Examiners.

It was during that Congress—in the Music Hall of the Pan-American Exposition—that Miss Isla Stewart presented and pinned on to Miss Isabel McIsaac, the President of the Congress, the badge of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Miss McIsaac is now the Inter-State Secretary, in which capacity she travels all over the American Continent to help forward nursing education and organisation; and the sympathy and interest which she received from Miss Stewart at that time have helped her much in her work. It was a memorable experience to nurses in the United States to come into touch, through the International Council of Nurses, with the pioneers of nursing organisation in Great Britain, one of the most prominent and honoured of whom was Miss Isla Stewart.

Miss Damer concluded by expressing the hope that the nurses of the United Kingdom would soon receive the recognition of the State to which they were entitled, and the status of registered women.

#### THE ANGEL OF INTERNATIONALISM.

Mrs. Fenwick then said:—In introducing to you Mrs. May Wright Sewall, of the United States, it would be an impertinence to attempt to add to her world-wide fame by referring to her work in detail.

Mrs. Sewall is the Angel of Internationalism. By founding the International Council of Women she has inspired the women of the world with the spirit of solidarity, through which force she teaches that we may take part in the evolution of humanity towards the Divine.

#### TRIBUTE OF MRS. MAY WRIGHT SEWALL.

Mrs. May Wright Sewall said:—We are all of one nation here to-night, not of Great Britain and Ireland, nor of La Belle France, nor of America, but of the nation whose name is Humanity. I fancy that it is because I saw that impulse breaking out through nationalism that I have cherished with such grateful affection the opportunity of meeting so many distinguished people amongst those who are striking blows for freedom. There is some instinct which makes one quick to recognise the international spirit, and none has impressed me more than my meeting with trained nurses in this country at the Banquet and Meeting of the Matrons' Council during the International Congress of Women in 1899, and prominent among them Miss Isla Stewart. When I was invited to address the nurses at that time I must confess to my ignorance of the numbers and kind of women composing the nursing profession, but I knew it to typify a favourite ideal of mine, the oneness of people of all bloods, and I recognised in my intercourse with Miss Isla Stewart that I was looking into the fearless eyes of a consciously growing soul, of one who knew the boundary line between self-respect and pride, in whom there was no arrogance, but abounding vitality, one whom death could never touch.

Build thee, more stately mansions, oh, my soul!  
As the swift seasons roll—  
Leave thy low vaulted Past,  
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,  
Shut thee from Heaven with a dome more vast—  
Till thou at length set free  
Leavest thine outworn shell by Life's unresting  
sea.

It was only the worn out shell that crumbled—worn out in that service in which, more than any other, our dear Madam Chairman has led the way.

The soldier gives himself to his country at the call of patriotism, but the nurse, following the lines of battle, is instinct with a mercy larger than patriotism, and the Isla Stewarts of this world live a life which transcends local limitations, which goes out in unstinted service to whoever is in need; for to such women the one who needs their service most is the nearest brother. So long as pain, sickness, and grief are of all nationalities, so long are charity, mercy and helpfulness of all nationalities. In the buoyant mood begotten of this universalism, to have the consciousness that there is above us a dome so vast that all races come under it, to feel its canopy and protection, is to be inspired by that sentiment of oneness; to know that the different nations have their remote

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)