

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

THE TRIENNIAL MEETING.

The historic Hall of the Gürzenich, in Cologne, was crowded to the walls on Monday, August 5th, with an audience composed of delegates and representative nurses from 23 countries, and the atmosphere was electric with enthusiasm when Sister Agnes Karll, the President of the International Council of Nurses, rose, amidst a tremendous ovation, to deliver her Address of Welcome. The President was supported on the platform by the Hon. President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the Hon. Officers, Miss Dock and Miss Breay, several Councillors, and official delegates from Germany, Great Britain and Ireland, the United States of America, Canada, Denmark, Holland, India, and New Zealand.

Fraternal delegates were also present from South Africa, Australia, France, Austria Hungary, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Japan, and other countries.

THE ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

The President on rising to open the meeting was greeted with prolonged acclamation, and bowed her acknowledgment with evident feeling. Speaking first in German and then in English, she said: "I open from the chair the general meeting of the International Council of Nurses, and I thank you all—Germans and foreigners—that you have assembled here to unite with us in our deliberations, and I welcome you heartily in the name of the Fatherland and of the International Council of Nurses. It is a great joy to me that so many of you have come from so far, and I hope all our foreign guests will have a happy time in our wonderful city of Cologne on the Rhine, and that our German sisters will enjoy the week also. We shall welcome to-day into international membership the National Councils of India and New Zealand—a most happy enlargement of our circle."

GREETINGS.

Professor Dr. Franke then conveyed to the meeting the greetings of the Association of Teachers of Midwives, congratulating the Congress that it had chosen the ancient city of Cologne as its place of meeting. Cologne knew how to keep the freshness of youth. Last evening, he said, the Congress had been welcomed by the heads of the Government, and of the town, to the strains of music and a choir of lovely voices. Now it was the part of the medical profession to welcome it, and some of

its senior members were there to greet the members of the Congress and assure them that they had the best wishes of the medical profession in the city. Midwifery was one of the most important departments associated with nursing, in which the smallest mistake might have the most serious result, causing the death of both mother and child. He expressed his pleasure that the best educated women were taking up nursing and midwifery, and that they had a good professional position and had also attained a better position in society. The members of the medical profession knew that the best prescription was useless if trained nurses were not at the bedside to carry out their directions. The work of the trained nurse was animated by a spirit of love to her neighbour, and in this way she assisted the civilization of the nation and gained ideal victories for the Fatherland. In this way also she formed a support for the Government which did not fail in the day of emergency.

Dr. Franke concluded his address by saying: "You have come together for serious work, and we appreciate what you are doing for your profession, because we understand your aspirations and expect the best from you. We hope, therefore, for a blessing on this Congress in Cologne, so that in the power and success of its resolutions it may not be behind those that have preceded it, and we German doctors hope that where the nurses are not yet organized they may be strengthened and supported, and in this hope I welcome you."

Sister Karll, who thanked Dr. Franke for his kind words, said it was a real honour that he should speak in the name of the teachers of nurses and midwives.

Frau Bode-Engelhard then greeted the Council in the name of the Westphalian Women's Association, saying that it would follow with its best wishes the proceedings of the nurses who were gathered together from all lands to talk over professional matters.

Fraulein Busch, of Hanover, brought the best wishes of the Evangelical Association of German Women, and spoke of the sympathy which binds all women workers together. Her Association fully sympathized with the desire of the nurses that they should be well equipped for their work, and would always follow that work with interest.

Sister Agnes Karll, in her reply, said that the speaker knew the difficulties of nurses because she was a nurse herself.

Fraulein Rosa Kahnt, who spoke in the name of the German Association for Women's

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