

IMPRESSIONS OF THE CONGRESS.

How the International Council of Nurses has grown in three years! Not only in numbers but in influence. It is very significant to gather together in conference upwards of 600 nurses from twenty-three different countries in one meeting place for a week, and Germany will note these days of association as a milestone in the history of nursing. In Cologne, before our Congress, no one realised what professional nursing means in these days. When the Cologne ladies were asked to help in the work for the Congress, they were ready to do it, because nurses are warmly supported in their devoted work in Germany, on account of the general love for the old religious institutions, from whose past labours nurses reap many benefits, as 38,000 of the 72,000 nurses are still members of Catholic orders, or deaconesses.

The lesson learnt by Germany at Cologne will be the realisation that professional nursing does not necessarily mean degrading the holiest of women engaged in nursing, but that in maintaining high ideals it can uplift the soul. The unity of thought and earnestness of purpose and high ideals of the members of our International Council, have impressed the women of Cologne very deeply, also the men who have attended our meetings. They think hundreds more should have been present, and they will hand on their good impressions to a wide circle of people, to the great ultimate benefit of professional nurses in Germany.

From the first evening the old Gürzenich was filled with a depth of feeling and warm heartedness which was retained throughout the Congress. Happy every nurse who could be there and enjoy such inspiring fellowship. How greatly encouraged German nurses must feel, knowing, dear friends, that you came to them from the farthest ends of the world! We shall never lose what you gave us by so doing. *Auf Wiedersehen* in San Francisco—the only fitting words to end my impressions of these past happy days.

AGNES KARLL.

Hon. President,

International Council of Nurses.

The prevailing impression of our Cologne Congress, to me, was that of a rare joyousness, a fresh energy, delighting in its out-streaming powers. It seemed to be the very embodiment of that spirit of joy in service and work which, Herr Geheimrat Dr. Hecker truly said it was the right of every human being to experience, and which should not be crushed out of the life of any worker.

This stamp of joyousness was set from the first moment, I think, partly by our glorious surroundings in the beautiful city; the richly built mediæval hall where we met, which was dedicated by the city to hospitality; the soaring splendour of the Cathedral and its thrilling bell-tones; the warm and unbounded kindness which we met on

all sides (even in the Customs House, when one of us appeared, five or six men, instead of one, attended to our papers and packets); then the beauty of German gardens, the Rhine landscape, and accompanying us everywhere the unrivalled music of Germany, priceless gift of joy, which is here truly a part of the life of the people.

This subtle rhythmic harmony swayed our meetings. Mrs. Fenwick's watchword "Aspiration," chimed in unison with it. As Dr. Ruhsack pointed out, there was not one trace of discord. All was eager, aspiring unity of purpose. May our interim period continue so, and may we meet in three years undivided by the factional dissensions with which the world around us is clogged in its progress!

L. L. DOCK,

Hon. Secretary,

International Council of Nurses.

Can it be that it is only thirteen years since that great forward movement in the nursing world took place—the organisation of the International Council of Trained Nurses? Those who were privileged to be present at the Triennial Congress at Cologne were distinctly conscious of the advance made since our last meeting held in London in 1909. Nurses the world over owe a debt of gratitude, which the future only can fully disclose, to the untiring devotion, courage and ability of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, its honoured founder and Honorary President. "She builded better than she knew," and this world-wide organisation will be a lasting memorial to her. The unbounded hospitality of the citizens of Cologne, the perfectness noticeable in all the arrangements of the Congress over which Sister Agnes Karll presided with dignity and eminent ability, the readiness manifested by the medical profession to co-operate with the suggestions made as to lessening hours of duty of German nurses, taken with the exquisite music and entertainments provided, all contributed to make this Congress, at which there were present delegates from nine countries, and fraternal delegates from many more, one of the most, if not the most, memorable in the history of the International Council.

M. AGNES SNIVELY,

First President, Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses.

Dr. Paul Jacobsohn, editor of the *Deutsche Krankenpflege Zeitung*, writes in glowing terms of the Congress. He is impressed first by the extent and thoroughness of the preliminary arrangements, by the work of the Council in planning and completing the programme, the immense forethought of Sister Agnes, and the remarkable scope and perfection of the details executed by the ladies of the local Committees. He feels deep admiration for the earnestness, singleness of purpose, harmony of spirit, and force of co-operation shown by the members who carried the programme through, and by those who listened. Having attended many Congresses of men, he is

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