

The whole Congress was irradiated by a hospitality which seemed not, indeed, to be mere hospitality, but to spring from the heart. The infinite pains taken by the Cologne ladies, the cordiality of the city, the receptions met with on the excursions were all lavish of friendliness.

From beginning to end there was harmony, no trace of discord or disunion was to be felt.

I am asked what was the impression that the Köln Conference left on my mind. First and foremost and from beginning to end I think it was the impression of energy — boundless, mighty, brilliant energy. Energy in everything undertaken and brought to such a consummate finish; energy of conception, of imagination, of whole-hearted hospitality, of determination that all, and especially the foreign section, should be helped to profit by the Conference, that they should enjoy themselves to the full. Marvelous energy in organisation, and yet no one seemed overtired, no one fretful or "nervy" among our hosts, no one too busy to help others. The work of the Conference and Congress alone makes one dizzy to think of the multitude of subjects touched on, the multitude of speakers, the multitude of listeners, the breadth of the ground covered, and, added to all this, the energy shown in the entertainments provided for us. The Pageant, of course, stands out gloriously pre-eminent—the heavenly singing of the men's choir, the wonderful rendering by living human beings of four episodes of German nursing culminating in the great group of nurses from all lands bearing their banners and offering to Hygeia (the Goddess of Health) the laurel wreaths of the victors over disease and death. But besides that, there were fêtes given to us by the Head Burgomaster of Cologne, by the Municipality, by the

Neuenahr Baths management, by more than I can remember, for indeed this rush of resistless energy seems to have made all pass by at such speed that only by degrees will one remember and pick out individual scenes. One lecture stands out before all others, and that was Dr. Hecker's magnificent speech on the social conditions of the German nurse. One idea rears itself on high above the many others presented to our minds, and that is that nurses should never be

contented with their work of nursing the sick, but aspire always to the time when their work will be at least mainly to prevent illness.

One excursion before all others will be remembered by the English-speaking nurses, and that is the one to Kaiserswerth, where Florence Nightingale learnt the science and the discipline and the art of nursing.

CHRISTINA FORREST,
*Treasurer National
Council of Trained
Nurses of Great
Britain and Ireland.*

The impression which the Dutch nurses have of the Congress is enormous. So much has been spoken about so many interesting and instructive subjects that we shall keep the remembrance of it for many years.

We hope during the next three years to carry to their fulfilment many great plans, especially those of State registration and improved training.

We agree so very much with what Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said, that there must be no nationality among nurses, and that we must feel ourselves one in all in our great organisation.

A word of thanks to Sister Agnes Karll and Miss Dock for all they have done.

C. J. TILANSUS,
VERWEY MEJAN,
D. E. VAN RIJN,
Fr. SPRUIJTENBURG,

Delegates of the Dutch Nurses Association.



DR. HECKER. A NURSES' CHAMPION.

previous page

next page