

gether a few kindred spirits into the National Council of Women of the United States.

From this meeting she told us we must all go forth—even to the uttermost parts of the earth we must presently go—and teach the lesson of the common right of humanity to communion, participation, and fellowship. How infinitesimal are worlds—or spheres—even the whole universe—how pale, inert, how lifeless, deprived of the affluence of human feeling! The spiritual and intellectual forces of love and learning, the germ of the Divine in man, are these not the forces through which worlds are enlightened and kept sane?

Thus May Wright Sewall, apostle and prophet.

She ceased speaking.

Then matters of business were discussed. Councils must be formed in every country in the world, and those present must just go out and do it. Names were tossed about—international officers nominated.

Suddenly, smiling upon me in my far corner in her enticing way, she said: "I was aware whilst speaking of a personality in this room very much in sympathy with the International Idea."

"That is so," I answered. Someone introduced us, and suffice it to say in a few minutes I had been commissioned straight away to see Mrs. Eva McLaren, "of England," nominated International Secretary, and urge her from that meeting to form a National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, preparatory to affiliation with the International Council.

This upon my return to London I did, and Mrs. Eva McLaren invited me to act as Hon. Secretary to a provisional committee, which ultimately, in conference with representatives of the National Union of Women Workers, decided to extend the Constitution of that Union, by forming a governing body of affiliated societies of women and branches; and this organization, under the title of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, has long since formed a part of the great International Council of Women.

So far, well.

But what of the nurses? Year by year all over the world their usefulness to the community and their own professional needs grow and grow. How find time or interest to deal with them effectively in a general assembly? It did not appear possible. Why not commune together?

Of all classes of women the trained nurse is least tied and bound by environment. Sick humanity in the past, and now in addition how to prevent sickness, is her universal sphere

of action. Truly it has been said that there is no nationality in nursing. Metaphorically she should fly around, oblivious of geographical and spherical boundaries. Wherever she alights there, ready to hand, her work awaits her—need of the sanitary law, eugenics, home making, child tending, and mind training. Always—always first, prevention of injurious environment, then body building. All to have a sufficiency of earth, air, fire, and water, elemental human rights. Then unceasing war on human greed, body maiming, and spirit crushing, through wealth worship. Also, if disease creeps in, and accidents happen, every nurse must possess fundamental knowledge—theory and practice hand in hand, fine trained skill, mental and manual, so that, trained, wonderful, indispensable, she may outpour of her treasures all the time—it matters not *where*.

Why not encircle the world with the sympathetic touch of such a Sisterhood?

"Let us do it," I said to Isla Stewart. "Let us," she answered in her buoyant way.

So it came about that when the International Council of Women held its Quinquennial Meeting in London in 1899, the Spirit of Internationalism was in our midst. We invited its presence, and at the Annual Meeting of the Matrons' Council, at which foreign nurses were present, I proposed "That steps be taken to organize an International Council of Nurses." The resolution was seconded from the chair by the late Miss Isla Stewart and unanimously adopted.

The constitution as adopted was prefaced by the following preamble:—

"We, nurses of all nations, sincerely believing that the best good of our profession will be advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy, and purpose, do hereby band ourselves into a confederation of workers to further the efficient care of the sick, and to secure the honour and the interests of the nursing profession."

Realising that professions, like nations, can only flourish by the development of the individual sense of corporate responsibility, the first aim of the International Council of Nurses was, through the affiliation of National Associations adopting graduate suffrage as a fundamental principle, to organize nurses all the world over and make them articulate. Rooted in the graduate vote, the nursing tree branches into Leagues and Alumnae Associations, blossoms by delegation into National Councils, inclusive of Superintendents' and Nurses' Associations, the ripe fruit of which is

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