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## EDITORIAL.

### THE INFLUENCE OF INTERNATIONALISM.

The sympathetic and educative influence of the International Council of Nurses on the nursing profession extends far beyond the central organization, and is felt, through the National Councils of Nurses affiliated with it, by every Society which helps to build up these Councils. Thus we are sure that the spirit of internationalism will dominate the forthcoming Conference at Dublin, organized by the Irish Nurses' Association, one of the constituent societies of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

For the information of those unacquainted with the formation and objects of the International Council of Nurses, they may be briefly summarized.

The proposition to found an International Council of Nurses was made by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick at the Annual Conference of the Matrons' Council in London in 1899, at which the Nursing Delegates from foreign countries then attending the International Congress of Women were present. It was seconded from the chair by the late Miss Isla Stewart, and supported in an eloquent speech by the Founder and President of the International Council of Women, Mrs. May Wright Sewall, U.S.A.

The reason advanced by the foundation members of the International Council of Nurses for its formation was as follows:—  
“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 in a confederation of workers to further the efficient care of the sick, and to secure the honour and the interests of the nursing profession.”

Organization is achieved by the combination of National Councils or Associations of

Nurses, composed of societies of graduate nurses and matrons, grouped together, which, by affiliation with the International Council are admitted to the spacious freedom and comradeship of the nurses of the world. The hands of those working in the affiliated countries to improve nursing conditions, often under most difficult circumstances, are thus strengthened, and the Council endeavours, in the words of its Hon. Secretary, Miss L. L. Dock, “to assist the great processes of character building by encouraging independent thought, free speech, self-controlled action, and the sense of responsibility towards all those who follow after us when we are gone.”

The history of the International Council of Nurses has been one of continued progress, and the Congresses held by it increasingly successful. When it met in Berlin in 1904 the national groups of nurses in three countries were affiliated: Great Britain and Ireland, the United States of America, and Germany; in London in 1909, Holland, Denmark, Finland, and Canada entered into membership, and last year, at Cologne it had the happiness of welcoming the nurses of the Indian Empire and New Zealand.

One of the facts most clearly demonstrated at these meetings has been the unanimity of the organized nurses of every country on the vital questions affecting their profession, on education, economics and organization, and the resolutions and pronouncements of so representative and important a body, in regard to such questions as State Registration of Nurses, which it has supported unanimously on three occasions in general meeting assembled, must influence legislation for the benefit of the community throughout the world.

The next triennial meeting of the Council is to be held at San Francisco in 1915, and already the nurses of many nations are preparing to participate in it.

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