

registration a quarter of a century ago, quoting from Sir Edward Cook's very crude and not entirely accurate chapter in her "Life" on this question.

Lady Helen, in criticising Lady Jersey, brings us back to the second decade of the twentieth century, and claims that the modern nurse must be equal to far greater demands upon her skill of hand, powers of observation, resourcefulness, prompt recognition of symptoms, scientific cleanliness, and knowledge of the conditions to be watched for and reported upon to the medical attendant, than was the case twenty-five years ago.

Sir Edward Cook, although he does not appreciate the underlying principles of the demand for State Registration of Nurses—an efficient educational curriculum and tested knowledge before a nurse is entrusted with the care of the sick—supports the demand unintentionally by making it quite clear that the very basis of Miss Nightingale's teaching was "the need of scientific training," and that it was "the recognition of it and insistence upon it that constituted her special contribution to the subject." The notion that nothing more than "a devoted woman" was needed was what Miss Nightingale was for ever combating. The notion expressed almost in Lady Helen's words was what critics of Miss Nightingale's new model propounded.

The truth is that Miss Nightingale's opposition to registration (at the age of 73) was more the result of sensitive personal feeling about the work she loved, a fear of professionalism being substituted for instinctive vocation, than a reasoned opinion founded on inevitable economic evolution. As Miss Dock has so pithily said, "Miss Nightingale's supreme weapon was education," and registration is only a weapon by which to secure efficient nursing education. Therefore we warmly applaud Sir Victor Horsley's hope, in his reply in the *Times* to Lady Jersey "in her mistaken opposition to the progress of civilised thought and political liberty," "that Miss Nightingale's honoured name will never again be mentioned in support of the stagnation which is gravely affecting national nursing and inflicting hardships on the sick poor, though neither statesmen nor the public can realise it."

Sir Victor invites Lady Jersey to study the registration, that is the nursing question, more closely, and he adds: "She will find that hardships to all, patients and nurses alike, are the inevitable consequences of an ignorant opposition offered to the development and progress of one of the highest callings anyone can enter."

SAN FRANCISCO, 1915.

We are glad to hear that it is probable many more Matrons and nurses will be able to attend the International Congress of Nursing at San Francisco, May 31st, 1915, than was anticipated, and a letter from Miss S. A. Dowse, so long a member of the Army Nursing Service, now Matron of the British Ophthalmic Hospital at Jerusalem, who writes for information, says she longs to attend the Conference, and wishes to make arrangements well beforehand. "I think," she adds, "it will be just lovely to go that trip and meet so many interesting people. I am getting quite excited about it already. I was with you in Paris, the only meeting I have been able to attend."

Miss Goodrich writes: "We are all looking forward with much eagerness to greeting our foreign sisters in San Francisco in 1915. It cannot come too soon. I hope that Miss Mollett, Miss Cutler, Miss Cox-Davies, Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson and her charming sister, and indeed all those splendid women whom we met in London will be there. Of course, I need not mention yourself and Miss Brey: it would not be an International Congress unless you were there."

We have information from an American Tourist Company, approved by Miss L. L. Dock, and of which we shall hear more as soon as she arrives in England. The representative of this Company writes:—

"It occurred to us that if your organization had a concrete proposition all arranged with the steamship lines and rail routes through to San Francisco, to submit to your members, you would be able to get a larger number than otherwise. We therefore take the liberty of submitting the following:—

That we reserve 50 to 100 berths on a specified steamer sailing from England, and arrange that you arrive in New York a few days prior to the departure of the American contingent. This would enable the foreign party to join them.

"Railroad rates will likely be from New York to San Francisco and return, 88 to 109 dollars. The tourist sleeper rates will be 9 dollars for double lower berth, and 7.20 dollars for an upper berth. Second cabin steamship rates from England to New York, from 100 to 120 dollars for the round trip." Say steamer second class £20, train £20, sleeper £4, with tips, £45. Food on trip at least another £6, so that travelling will cost £50. At least £1 a day must be estimated for expenses during a visit

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