

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,363

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1914.

Vol. LII.

EDITORIAL.

BRITISH NURSING AT SAN FRANCISCO.

Mrs. Helen P. Criswell, the Chairman of the Arrangements Committee for the reception of the International Council of Nurses and Nursing Exhibition at San Francisco, sends us the following information:—

“The Exposition officials have granted space to the International Council of Nurses for an exhibit to be maintained during the entire life of the Panama Pacific International Exposition to be held in San Francisco from February 20th to December 4th, 1915.

The story we are required to tell must represent what the nurse of the past was, what the nurse of the present is, and what the nurse of the future shall be. One of the ways which we wish to do this is by having three dolls dressed, not over two feet high, from each country representing

- “1. The costume worn by the first nurses of your country.
- “2. The costume in use to-day.
- “3. The costume that your country suggests as the ideal costume of the future.

“The dolls to become the property of the International Council of Nurses.

“We feel that England with her Sarah Gamp variety of nurses of the past, and very inventive genius for the future, will lend much to the Doll Department of the exhibit.

“We are counting upon England for the Mortuary Exhibit, which we hope will include all the things pertaining to that class of work that would be instructive to nurses as well as to the public. The plan of exhibit is, that each country shall teach a lesson and the one I am impressed that England can best teach is the lesson that will cover the Mortuary work. Will you let me know how much space would be required to put your exhibit up in the most satisfactory manner and when I might count upon receiving it.

“Cash prizes of £20 and £10 will be given to the nurse sending the best and second best inventions.

“All the exhibit material must be in hand by December 1914.”

We feel sure British Nurses will be eager, as the pioneers of trained nursing in so many parts of the world, to respond to this invitation from the United States of America, which has always in the most generous manner expressed

its indebtedness to Florence Nightingale, and her countrywomen, for their example in the past. The Costume Doll exhibit presents no difficulties; there are plenty of expert needlewomen amongst us to accomplish with credit that little bit of work. But how to finance an Exhibit worthy of our traditions,—to say nothing of its transport to California, and its expert arrangement and care whilst on view? The nursing community in this country is poor, and every penny the profession builders can spare, has been, and is being, most generously given to pay for the propaganda necessary to keep the great movement for State Registration in evidence. We have ample technical skill in our midst to produce an exhibit at San Francisco worthy of the United Kingdom, but without financial help we fear but a fraction of what we can do can be undertaken.

It will be remembered that at the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893, the British Nursing Exhibit, exhaustive and up-to-date in every detail, was organized, and set out by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, as a member of the Women's Committee, of the British Royal Commission. It was honourably housed by the Board of Lady Managers in a beautiful room to itself in the Women's Building, and commanded admiration, commendation, and handsome awards—and at the close of the Exposition every section was sold to educational bodies, and others. It cost many hundred pounds, and was well worth it; stamping as it did the pre-eminence, in those days, of British Nursing, at the most splendid Exposition which has ever been held in our time.

What is the position of British women's work to-day in connection with the Panama Pacific International Exposition? Our Government is taking no official part in the enterprise—consequently there is no State money available to pay for our handiwork or to transport it to the Pacific slope. Is this a sufficient reason for us to stand aside? Is Britain so poor, and the nursing profession in these somewhat degenerate times, so lacking in energy,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)