

### OUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.

Members of the National Council of Trained Nurses in this country have for some time been looking forward to the pleasure of a visit from Miss M. A. Nutting, Professor of Nursing and Health at Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York, and her colleague, Miss A. W. Goodrich, President of the International Council of Nurses. Last week they arrived, their tour on the Continent having been abruptly terminated by the outbreak of hostilities. They were in the Austrian Tyrol—after a visit to Italy, during which they saw Miss Snell and her work at the Policlinico Hospital, Rome—when the necessity for immediate action became apparent. Their luggage was in Vienna, or on the way there, so with very few personal possessions they, with Miss G. M. Nevins, Matron of the Garfield Memorial Hospital, Washington, arrived in London, full as ever of charm, vigour, and professional enthusiasm, and, with the true nursing spirit, making light of the discomforts by the way, though these must have been many, for the trains were packed, and food for some twenty-four hours impossible to obtain.

But here they are, and here Miss Goodrich and Miss Nevins are, for the present, likely to remain, for the prospects of their getting across the Atlantic are most indefinite,\* but their inconvenience is our gain. They are guests whom we delight to honour, and though, in these times of stress, the official welcome they receive from the nursing profession may fall short of that we should like to give them, the President of the International Council of Nurses may rest assured that every member of the National Council of Trained Nurses extends to her the heartiest of greetings and the warmest of welcomes. As a friend she comes to friends, a friendship founded in Berlin in 1904, cemented in London in 1909, and acclaimed in Cologne in 1912, when the delegates of the National Councils of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, the United States, Germany, Holland, Finland, Denmark, Canada, India, and New Zealand unanimously asked her acceptance of the highest honour the nursing world has to offer—the Presidency of the International Council of Nurses.

Miss Nutting has had the good fortune—at least it seems so at the present time—to secure a passage in a freight boat from Glasgow to

\* Events move apace. Miss Goodrich and Miss Nevins are now on the high seas, having most unexpectedly secured berths on the *Royal George*.

Newfoundland, and hopes to leave as this JOURNAL goes to press. Many good wishes will go with her, and we shall hope to hear of her arrival in New York in time for the opening of the autumn session at Teachers' College.

Yet another of our American friends is a guest within our shores at the present time, Miss Edna L. Foley, Superintendent of the Visiting Nurse Association at Chicago, which numbers over 70 nurses, each one of them entitled to write the letters R.N. after her name. In a recent interview, we asked Miss Foley what is the effect of the Registration Laws on the status of nurses and nursing, and her reply was that wherever registration of nurses is in force experience shows there is a steady improvement. For one thing, in schools where the training is inadequate, the pupils now have a lever wherewith to secure a *quid pro quo* for their services, and they are not going to stay in schools which do not come up to the State standard. In one nursing school the junior class went in a body to the directors, and told them that, after reasonable notice, they would all leave, unless the school qualified for registration.

The State standard, qualifying for registration, is the highest that there is, and it has had a great effect in bringing up that of the inferior and commercial schools, because their pupils fail at the State examination, but effective pressure could not have been brought to bear on them without registration.

Another influence bringing pressure to bear on the inferior schools is that the authorities of high schools advise their pupils, in considering nursing as a profession, to take care, if they do adopt it, that the school they enter for training is a registered one. The Red Cross Society requires all nurses serving under it to possess the R.N., and so do the public health authorities, in making nursing appointments.

Miss Foley mentioned an instance of a nurse who applied to her to come on the staff of the Visiting Nurses' Association. She found she was not a registered nurse, and told her she was not eligible for the staff. The nurse said that she obtained her training with the object of doing visiting nursing. Eventually she went back to her school, which was unregistered, and its pupils therefore ineligible for registration, and brought pressure to bear on the authorities to work up to the registration standard, and get State recognition for their school; the pupils said that if it were not registered they would leave, the alumnae stood by them, and the school had to register.

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