

to learn that St. Thomas' obtained "confidentially" the printed material from the Department of Nursing and Health, where American nurses have established a Chair of Nursing—"needed for laying a plan before the authorities of King's College."

(4) Sir Henry Miers expresses the opinion "that the refusal of Bedford College to undertake the institution of courses already fully provided in another College of the University is easily understood."

In our opinion, this "extension of existing Courses" by no means "fully provides" for the educational scheme to be established in connection with a Chair of Nursing, which should be held by a trained woman Professor of Nursing, the crux of the whole scheme. The King's College scheme by no means satisfies the aspirations of nursing educationists in this country, or those affiliated in the International Council of Nurses; their goal is a Chair of Nursing, an aim which, as Miss Dock points out in her spirited manner, "will be pursued unremittingly until it is finally in existence."

What is most to be deplored in this matter is the "confidential" method of procedure by those responsible for the King's College Scheme, by which, as usual, the Nursing Profession have been excluded from expressing an opinion on their own affairs. The mere fact, however, that the Trustees of the Nightingale Fund have conceded the demand of the National Council of Trained Nurses, that Education should be associated (as apart from charity) with the honoured name of Florence Nightingale, is a distinct victory for its original demand.

E. G. F.

## OUR FOREIGN LETTER.

### FROM HOLLAND.

DEAR EDITOR,—I have been reading with great interest and sympathy in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING your Resolution and Statement to the Secretary of State for War. Of many facts mentioned in that Statement I can say: "c'est tout comme chez nous." As we are happily not involved in this dreadful war, the sad consequences of, on one side, the inactivity of the Red Cross Society; on the other side of their making use of the services of badly-trained persons where nurses are available, are not so bad as in your country. Still it is very much to be deplored, and a shame, that in many cases those Red Cross assistants, who got a steam-training (as it is called here) of nine hours theory and practice all in all, are preferred to the nurses. Nosokōmos has openly protested in the papers against these doings of the Red Cross, and probably a Petition will be sent to the Minister of War requesting him

to take this matter in hand and organise a military nursing service. But you will easily understand that all those nurses, who, during the first days of August, offered their services to the Red Cross and never got any call for work, although there was plenty to do when all those poor Belgians came to us, have offered their services elsewhere. Some have gone to Belgium. In December the German Nurses Organisation asked us to send nurses to Austria, where they are sadly wanted. This opportunity of giving help in these sad times was welcomed joyfully by many. Already two groups have departed and a third one is preparing for the journey. They all go to a small town in Bohemia where several large buildings are prepared for the reception of the sick and wounded.

The official communication, that the Congress in San Francisco is put off has reached us. It was a communication which did not surprise me very much, everybody is too much taken up by nursing work to have time for other things left. But although the news of the postponement confirmed what we had suspected for a good while, still it is a great disappointment, we had looked forward to that happy meeting with so much anticipation. But a business meeting will take place to hold the thread for future meetings as Miss Dock writes, and I want to state openly how welcome that news was. I sincerely hope that at that meeting will be decided to hold our next Nurses' Congress as soon as war is ended, and not to postpone it till 1918. If our Council were not a Nurses' organisation whose first duty is to be with the wounded, I should have proposed to arrange a meeting of the European members of our Council as soon as possible. From every where the question is asked, why do not women protest openly against this dreadful slaughter of men?

I am of opinion that the women must keep up internationalism, the friendship for, the better understanding of, other nations, which are the outcome of our international gatherings, then the ennobling and stimulating influence of our Congresses may not get lost. Having had no part in the making of this war, even hating it because war is so absolutely in contradiction to women's nature, we must do everything in our power to keep up the friendship between the different countries. We women have the difficult, but noble task of declaring war on the war, of fighting the hatred, which, like a horrid parasitic plant, has grown everywhere in a single day. We must take care that the ties, which bind us to the women of other countries do not snap. And nurses have a special mission in these times, healing the bodily wounds and bringing together those whom hate has parted. Ours is a work of love, we nurse friend and foe with the same care, our work must show the peoples that women's work has always been and shall always be peaceful work, work which forwards the interests of mankind, work to preserve life instead of destroying it.

Yours truly,

J. C. VAN LANSCHOT HUBRECHT.

Amsterdam.

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