

The anti-alcohol campaign inaugurated by the New York City Health Department has received unqualified endorsement from the American Nurses' Association at the recent convention in San Francisco. In making public the text of the resolutions adopted by the Association, Health Commissioner Colchester said :—

"This endorsement is particularly gratifying, for no class of individuals comes into closer or more frequent contact with the evils produced by the immoderate use of alcohol. By their action the nurses proclaim their belief that this is distinctly a health problem, and should be dealt with by public health authorities."

The text of the resolution is as follows :—

Whereas the American Nurses' Association believes that alcohol lessens vital resistance, fosters poverty and all the diseases that come from poverty, hindering the progress of the community ; and

Whereas the American Nurses' Association is firmly convinced that it is the greatest cause of human ills ;

Therefore, be it resolved that the effort of the New York City Health Department to establish a betterment of public health by conducting a systematic, vigorous and definite campaign against this acknowledged evil, be given a full and whole-hearted endorsement by the American Nurses' Association assembled in San Francisco.

Members of the Registered Nurses' Society, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., past and present, are scattered far and wide doing good work for the community. A former member, Miss Amelia Pressly, has recently returned from Canada, where she was working at Whitby as a member of the Victorian Order of Nurses, work which she greatly enjoyed. Before leaving Whitby, at a public meeting, she was presented by Mayor Warren, on behalf of the Victorian Order of Nurses' Committee, with a gold wrist watch. The Mayor said that Miss Pressly had made friends of all whom she had met, and had given her time and energies most unselfishly for the good of Whitby people. At one time a rest was necessary because of the severe strain under which she had been working, and the number of calls sent in for her, but she was at all times cheerful and optimistic, and never a word of complaint was heard. It was because of her supreme self-forgetfulness that her departure would cause regret in every home in Whitby.

The President of the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses acknowledges with thanks the following donations :—Miss Sleigh, £2 2s. (in remembrance) ; Miss M. Lord, 10s.

OUR FOREIGN LETTER.

LETTER V.—ECHOES OF THE SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE.

DEAR MADAM,—In listening—as it has been my privilege to do—to so many admirable papers read at the Convention of the American Nurses' Association, I have been particularly impressed by the fact that the *key note* struck by all the speakers was the *essential value of education*. I have alluded to this before, but I wish to emphasise it because in this fact we find the reason—outstanding and clear—of the rapid progress which is being made by the American Nurses and their profound sense of their responsibility as servants of the sick. By the courtesy of the American Nurses' Association I am able to make quotations from a paper read by its retiring President, Miss Genevieve Cooke, who presided at a meeting of the members on the evening of June 21, which definitely proves my statement :—

"The nurse of to-day is educated by widely different methods, and to meet widely different demands from those of yesterday, and to lay a wise and adequate foundation to efficiently equip the nurse of to-morrow is one of the serious problems which concern our teaching body, and our far-seeing and sympathetic associates and medical officers. We may indeed be thankful that in the education of the present-day nurse, a wider interpretation of this simple title prevails, and whether the demand for service to-day calls her to the private home or to the hospital, or to serve in time of general calamity, such as earthquake, fire, flood, or to succour the wounded on cruel battle fields, the ministrations of the true nurse may be anticipated not only with a confidence that she possesses technical skill, and the experience which makes her the chief assistant to the great surgeon, but also with trust and belief that in her experience in the school of Life she has come into possession of that knowledge and sympathetic understanding of souls in distress, which fits her to be the chief assistant to the Great Physician. We must all in time come to recognise the truth of the statement that the development of a soul is not a peaceful process like the growth of a plant. The realisation of a Divine purpose within ourselves, we are told, is not in obedience to a tranquil necessity. For ever there is conflict between high ideals and low standards, a wrestling with the principles of evil, hand to hand ; foot to foot, every inch of the way must be disputed. It is thus in our struggle for lifting the nursing profession to higher efficiency."

By the courtesy also of Miss Goodrich, Assistant Professor in the Department of Nursing and Health, Teacher's College, Columbia University, New York, I am also enabled to quote from her "response" to the most charming address of welcome given by Mrs. Frederick Sanborn, President Woman's Board of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, on the same evening :—

"It was as you know, our purpose to hold at this time not only a National, but an International

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)