

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

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At the American Nurses' Association Convention at San Francisco, after Miss Goodrich, President of the International Council of Nurses, had presented her Report, the President, Miss Genevieve Cooke, called on the representative from the Council of Great Britain and Ireland, Miss Hulme.

MISS A. E. HULME.

MISS HULME: Sisters, it is with mingled feelings that I stand before you to-day to bring you the greetings from your sisters in England. We are meeting in this sheltered spot to confirm the sisterhood that makes us one, but the absent ones, the nurses of America, as of England, went where the need is greatest on the fringe of the battle plain. The greeting that I bring you here is as nothing compared to the welcome we give to those who have come over seas to help us in our hour of need and sore distress. A wide gulf separates us from the past, from our last glad reunion. Seas of blood roll between then and now and many landmarks of kindness and goodwill have been uprooted, but through all the blindness, cruelty and passion of war, there still lives the spirit that would heal where others have stricken, that would bind where others have severed, and to that band the great nursing sisterhood has ever belonged. And I am sure I may say that we are all glad to remember that in the past we have met in good fellowship, not only in Buffalo, London and Paris, but also in Berlin and Cologne. Nothing can be more hopeful for the future than the fact that in spite of the present turmoil of the world your great nation has conceived and carried through this wonderful festival of Peace; has reared these magnificent buildings to celebrate the triumph not of man over man but of man over the brute forces of nature. It is like a breath, no, like a great wind of hope lifting the cloud of doubt and dismay that at this moment wraps the world. When the dawn of a new day breaks and when peace and charity are again restored to us, then we trust that the sisterhood of nursing may be one of the bands that will once again unite the nations of the world. May that day come soon, but now and always we, the nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, greet you in the bond of sisterhood, the bond that binds nurses o'er all the earth.

Miss Cooke then called on Miss Kent, the second delegate from England, who responded.

MISS ARSTREDES.

Miss Arstredes, of Holland, was then asked to speak.

MISS ARSTREDES: Although not having communicated lately with the president of the International Congress for Holland, I feel sure to express

her ideas in stating the following: Miss Lanschot Hubrecht representing the Dutch Nursing Organisation, *Nosokomos*, infinitely regrets not being able, on account of the war, to attend the meeting at San Francisco. It will interest you to hear that conditions in Holland for nurses have these last few years greatly improved, mainly with regard to reducing the hours on duty. In the best hospitals these have been brought back to nine and one-half and twenty-four hours off every week. We are trying to get State Registration, but so far have not been successful, several authorities not being in favour of it. However, some day we expect this law to be passed. I am glad to be able to take back to my country many interesting methods and ideas I gathered during my short stay here. We are looking forward to the day when the International Congress of Nurses will meet in Holland.

MISS HUNTER.

Miss Hunter, from Australia, was then called upon.

MISS HUNTER: The Australian Trained Nurses' Association, which was founded in 1899 with a mere handful of nurses, of whom I was one, numbers now in round numbers 4,000. This practically includes all the trained nurses of Australia with the exception of those belonging to the affiliated association of Victoria, numbering about another 2,000. It has been interesting to note the gradual but steady increase of the Australian Trained Nurses' Association in size, strength, efficiency and power, and I think it speaks well for the organisation of this association that it can well and efficiently control hospitals and the training of nurses over such a large area; an area nearly as large as that of the United States. There is one system of training, one standard of efficiency, and one examination. Each State has its own council, and as far as possible governs its own affairs, but is responsible to the parent association, which is in New South Wales. The work of the Association in connection with the training of nurses begins before they enter the training school, as they have to satisfy an educational committee in each state as to the standard of their general education, and if they cannot produce a certificate which sufficiently proves that they have attained the required standard they must pass a special educational examination held by the Association. Every training school reports annually to the council of the Association in its own State, a complete record of its pupils, each pupil nurse's career, from the date of her admission to the nursing staff of the hospital. This report includes the number of days she may be absent from duty other than those allowed for rest and recreation; the number and subjects of lectures given and attended; all examinations held and the results; the daily average number of patients and medical cases in the hospital, &c. When the pupil nurse has completed her term of training,

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