

distinguished nurses, at the London Congress in June, 1899, "*Why do not the American Nurses go in for State Registration?*" I think you must have been endowed with the spirit of prophecy! In her Paper on "General Legislation pertaining to Nurses and Nursing," Miss Louise Perrin, R.N., Colorado, used these words—which ought to have been heard by all pig-headed opponents—"The most popular form of legislation pertaining to women has been that which has provided for the State Registration of Nurses." Is proof in black and white necessary? It is easily supplied. New Jersey was the first to pass such legislation, that was in 1903. The blessed contagion spread like a forest fire to 41 other States, so that in the relatively short time of 12 years, 42 out of 46 States have adopted the reform! (Readers, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest!). Were we Americans, should we not be justly proud of such figures! So are they. Have they not, by their energy, zeal and co-operation raised nursing from a mere occupation to the dignity of a profession. I only wish it could have been possible for some of our friends the enemy! to have been with us at that last Session; it would have given their minds such a wholesome stretch! This is scarcely a digression, so I won't apologise.

The American Nurses are proud of their profession, because it is a profession. It is pardonable if English Nurses—some of them—are getting somewhat discouraged by the long drawn-out battle and deferred measure of justice. Let us hope, too, that when they do receive State recognition, they will be better paid, and have the ability, as well as the will, to do similar things. "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh" and that is what prompted me to ask leave of the Chairman—which was readily granted—to say a few words. I read quite recently somewhere, the good advice: "Never lose an opportunity." So following it, I said: "I feel like the Queen of Sheba! You know when she went to pay a visit to King Solomon, she said to him that in her own country, she had heard something of his power and his magnificence, but, she exclaimed when she saw him—'Behold the half was not told me'! In like manner, in our own country, we had heard of the American Nurses and their achievements. We knew that we might expect a kind welcome from them, but behold the *half* was not told us! From the day on which we landed in New York, until now, we have received such abundant kindness and hospitality that we do not know how to thank you adequately. When we left our poor bleeding country, I can assure you that our hearts were very sore; you have done much to cheer us. But it is not alone for these things that we desire to thank you. It has been at once a pleasure, a privilege and an education to us to have attended your Convention, and we thank you for all we have seen and heard and learnt from you. We have greatly admired your works of organization, your splendid solidarity, and your esprit de corps. It is these things combined that make for progress. I am reminded

of Browning's well-known lines: 'One who never turned his back but marched breast forward.' It is this dauntless forwardness of yours that impresses us. You have two great advantages that we have not. You have political enfranchisement; you are free women, you are not fettered as we are. But we do not envy you; it does not belong to internationalism—which, as I take it, means brotherly love—to envy those of the spiritual alliance. Rather, we rejoice with you, we feel sure that you feel for us that we have not yet seen the fruition of our hopes. But we, too, are marching breast forward, and we do not mean to turn our backs until the goal is won. What you have won and achieved is an encouragement to us. On behalf of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland which we represent, as well as personally, we thank you. We shall go back to England with minds enriched and hearts warmed; and as no place is very distant, and as time seems very short in busy lives, we shall look forward with the greatest pleasure to meeting you—all being well—in Copenhagen in 1918."

Some of our readers may possibly be acquainted with Macaulay's significant words:—"Then none was for a Party, then all were for the State." If they will parody these words, they will discover the spirit which inspired this Convention, namely a selfless altruism, the truest, practical patriotism. The Convention terminated as it had begun, with the sanctity of a religious service. The last item on the program was the announcement that a service would be held in the Crypt of Grace Cathedral by the San Francisco branch of the Guild of S. Barnabas. There was no sermon, but the Office of the Guild was read by the Chaplain, the Very Rev. J. Wilmer Gresham, the Dean. After the service an informal reception took place at the Deanery, where we were hospitably entertained to tea. We had the honour of an introduction to the Dean, to Mrs. Kelly, "the Guild Mother," Mrs. Sherman, Hon. Secretary, and the Bishop's wife and others.

And so ended the happy meetings of an *Entente Cordiale*, the memory of which will be always dear and inspiring to two privileged British Delegates.

BEATRICE KENT.

PAX.

We commend to the attention of our readers "Pax," a compound which it is claimed will render human beings, animals, birds, garden produce, furs and clothing, ordinarily liable to attack by various forms of insect life, entirely immune. This holds out a golden prospect of peace to those susceptible to the attacks of gnats, mosquitoes, wasps and other insects, which make life in the country a trial instead of a pleasure, and the name of "Pax" is well bestowed upon it. "Pax" has the further advantage that it is quite harmless to human beings, and may be used in the bath not only with impunity, but with benefit to the skin. In hospitals its manifold

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)