

THE FIRST GRADUATE NURSE OF AMERICA.

The return of Miss A. E. Hulme and Miss Beatrice Kent, delegates of the National Council of Trained Nurses in this country to the International Council Meeting and Congress in San Francisco, has been awaited with expectancy by many of the members, who know well the invigorating and uplifting influence of our American colleagues, and of the mental atmosphere of that wonderful country.

Those who have already met our delegates, and heard something of their experiences, realize that they have enjoyed, to the full, their delightful experiences. The Congress, the hospitals and kindred institutions, the educational system, the beauties of the American Continent, from New York to San Francisco, from thence to Alaska, and back by Canada, all have aroused their enthusiasm. Indeed, Miss Kent declares that although she had been prepared beforehand to be delighted with her travels, "the half was not told her." She is ready and eager to share her enjoyment, so far as may be, with our readers, and we shall look forward to many interesting articles from her pen.

One of the most interesting of Miss Kent's

experiences, while staying at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, as the guest of Miss Parsons, was a visit to Miss Linda Richards, America's first graduate nurse. As those who know their "History of Nursing" are aware, Miss Linda Richards began her professional career

more than forty years ago, and after undergoing training herself, acted as a pioneer in establishing nurse training schools in the various hospitals. She began her work in the New England Hospital for Women and Children, and in order to get a good insight into the hospital systems in this country, she crossed the Atlantic and worked for some months in the wards of St. Thomas' Hospital and King's College Hospital, London, and the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

It will be remembered that Miss Richards was a pioneer not only in America, but in Japan, where she was sent by the American Board of Missions in 1885. She remained there for five years, and Japan owes much to her efforts in the training of Japanese women as nurses. In her home near Boston, where she now lives in retirement, Miss Richards is known by the honoured

title of Superintendent Emeritus. Certainly no one ever deserved the title better, for she has retired from active professional work, held in universal honour.



MISS LINDA RICHARDS.
The first Graduate Nurse of America.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)