

## A WHIFF OF AMERICA.

We have all been enjoying "a whiff of America" during the past ten days, and to the "internationalists" it is indeed a refreshment. Bright, breezy, full of life and spirits, American nurses come to us a very special product of the great Republic of the West. Each woman diplomaed, State Registered, one and all members of their great free, self-governing National Association of Nurses. To realise that in the year 1892, when we paid our first visit to the United States, there was not one nurses' self-governing association from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and what they have accomplished in that time by *free self-expression*

## OUR AMERICAN COUSINS ARRIVE.

The Lakeside Base Hospital Unit had a strenuous day on May 23rd. First it proceeded to Marlborough House, where the members were received by Queen Alexandra, being presented by Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, Chairman of the American Red Cross in this country.

From thence they proceeded to Buckingham Palace where they were received by the King and Queen, when the King welcomed the Unit in the following words:—"It is with the utmost pleasure and satisfaction that the Queen and I welcome you here to-day. We greet you as the first detachment of the American Army which has landed on our shores since your great Republic



AMERICAN DOCTORS AND NURSES AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

of body, mind, and spirit, is to recognise that it is only through granting women such power that they can fit themselves for their high calling on the purest ethical standards. To be organised by others is a very paralysing process, and productive of servile acquiescence on the part of an apathetic majority. That is why we pioneers are protesting against it. We turn to America and see what can be done; it gives us high hope of what, in spite of reaction, British nurses may in a future generation accomplish—when they have the vote and feudalism has been swept away.

The nurses in every country who make a successful stand for self-government, benefit not themselves only but their colleagues elsewhere. The power of example is great.

resolved to join in the world struggle for the ideals of civilisation. We deeply appreciate this prompt and generous response to our needs. It is characteristic of the humanity and chivalry which have ever been evinced by the American nation that the first assistance rendered to the Allies is in connection with the profession of healing and the work of mercy." Each member of the Unit was presented to the King by name by her Matron, Miss Allison, and their Majesties shook hands with each. The King expressed to Miss Allison his pleasure that the Unit had come. The group on this page was taken during the ceremony, and, no doubt, all the nurses will be glad to keep this issue of the *Journal* as a memento of an historic occasion.

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