

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
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No. 1,639.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1919.

Vol. LXII

EDITORIAL.

TRAINED NURSES AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

When the Deputation from the International Council of Women, and the Conference of Women Suffragists of the Allied Countries and the United States were received by the League of Nations Commission on April 10 of this year, they took with them five points to lay before the Commission, namely:—

1.—That women shall be equally eligible with men to sit on all bodies and to fill all offices set up under the League.

2.—That States entering the League undertake to suppress all traffic in women and children and the licensing of houses of ill-fame.

3.—That the principle of Woman Suffrage be recognised by the League of Nations as one which should be applied throughout the world as soon as civilisation and democratic development of each country may so permit.

4.—That the Nations entering the League endeavour to make the aims and methods of their educational systems consistent with the general principles of the League of Nations, and to this end agree to establish a permanent Bureau of Education.

5.—That provision be made in the Covenant of the League of Nations for an International Bureau of Hygiene.

The first of these five points has been conceded.

The importance of the deputation cannot be over-estimated, both on account of its representative character, and also of the standing and intellectual attainments of the delegates. Twenty millions of women were represented by delegation, and among them a large number of trained Nurses, through the affiliation of

the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, the Matrons' Council, the National Union of Trained Nurses, and other organisations of trained Nurses, with the National Council of Women—this latter Council being a constituent Society of the *International Council of Women*. All these five points concern the work and interest of Nurses either directly or indirectly, especially two and five.

The first point is of fundamental importance, since it provides that Nurses, in common with other women, shall be eligible to "sit on all bodies and fill all offices (equally with men) to be set up under the League." This secures at once the principle of equality of justice, for which we have been striving for so many years. In this connection it is interesting to note that President Wilson, who presided, congratulated the members of the Conference on behalf of his colleagues and himself, and declared that he was in entire agreement with them in principle on all the questions raised. That is all to the good, but words alone will not suffice, we must see that they are translated into action. Reconstruction pre-supposes co-operation, for there can be no effective reconstruction apart from the co-operation of women, and trained Nurses—well educated, intelligent, and clear-sighted—must be effectively included. The idea of an International Bureau of Hygiene we warmly welcome, for such a vigorous policy would automatically tend to set a much higher standard of health and purity in all Countries of the League.

If Nurses will but take advantage of the prospects opening out to them, their sphere in the near future will be almost limitless. Let us not however lose sight of the obvious fact that higher standards—educational and spiritual—are being set, and the thing of primary

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