

cognised systems of nursing education and of control over the nursing profession. The experience of the past has proved that these results can never be obtained by any profession unless it is united in its demands for the necessary reform, and by union alone can the necessary strength be obtained. This union has been commenced in this country and in the United States. It remains for the nurses of other lands to follow our example, and unite amongst themselves; but I venture to contend that the work of nursing is one of humanity all the world over, and it is one, therefore, which appeals to women of every land without distinction of class, or degree, or nationality. If the poet's dream of the brotherhood of man is ever to be fulfilled, surely a sisterhood of nurses is an international idea, and one in which the women of all nations, therefore, could be asked and expected to join. The work in which nurses are engaged in other countries is precisely the same as that in our own. The principles of organisation would be the same in every country, the need for nursing progress is the same for every people, and my suggestion briefly is, therefore, that we should here and to-day inaugurate an International Council of Nurses, a body like the International Council of Women, composed of representatives of the Nursing Councils of every country, a body which shall in the first place help to build up Nurses' Councils in those countries which do not now possess any nursing organisation at all, which shall afford to those countries the information acquired in England and America in the progress and development of our work, aiding them with our experience, helping them to avoid the difficulties which we have met.

I beg, therefore, to propose:—

**"That steps be taken to organise an International Council of Nurses."**

This resolution was seconded from the chair by Miss Stewart, supported by Miss M. Huxley, and carried unanimously with enthusiasm.

The following resolution was then proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, seconded by Miss M. Huxley, Lady Superintendent of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin:—

**"That the Hon. Officers and Hon Members of the Matrons' Council be invited to form a Provisional Committee to consider the best methods of organising an International Council of Nurses with power to add to their number."**

Mrs. Fenwick then proceeded: "I would suggest that the nucleus of this Committee should meet together in London at once, and would suggest that Mrs. Quintard, and Miss Lucy Walker, of the United States, Mrs. Norrie, of Denmark, Miss Krussse, of Holland, and Miss Watkins, of Cape Colony, be invited to join the Provisional Committee."

MRS. MAY WRIGHT SEWALL said:—"Madam President, ladies belonging to the Matrons' Council, and all friends, we are come together to discuss this suggestion made by Mrs. Fenwick. Not being a member of the Matrons' Council, I have no right formally to support the resolution, but were I a member of that Council, I should take the heartiest pleasure in supporting it. I wish to speak, however, of certain difficulties that we must face in order that we may overcome them, and while my friends are either kind or unkind enough to imply that I may fly—and flying is not practised—while they walk, and that is the accepted method of locomotion, I will say that I see nothing that is not entirely practical, both in the International Idea itself and in this application of it. I had the honour to say, last night, at the banquet so generously given by your Council, that I have always regarded the work of a nurse as a work which lifted her out of the limitations that beset other occupations; because you do not when you enter a Hospital, enquire to what nationality the man or woman belongs whom you are called to nurse, and I have never heard that a fever discusses that question before

taking possession of its victim; neither have I ever heard that any disease modifies itself to suit the nationality of those whom it assaults; although, of course, we recognise that countries, through their climates, soil and physical conditions, breed what we may call, in a sense, national diseases; yet, if anyone of a different nationality comes to that climate, he is not the less, but the more, easily attacked by it. You are not called upon to consider nationality at all, you are not called upon to consider social constitution at all. I suppose that the same thing that would be considered good for a Duchess would be considered good for a drudge. I suppose that the bandage, the instrument in the hands of the surgeon, the poultice in the hands of the nurse, the cooling draught, the quickening potion that would be best adapted to a Queen, attacked by a certain illness, would be, if it could be commanded for her, equally adapted for the peasant; and it seems to me that I am looking into the faces of women who may, more easily than women in other professions, lift themselves out of the clutches of prejudice into the freer realm where the International Idea was born and must expand. In my own country, I have heard a doctor called a democratic doctor, a republican doctor, and I have always thought it the most amusing of all our amusing Americanisms; but I assure you that when a leader of the Republican Party is taken ill, the physician called to attend him is not asked whether or no he belongs to the same political party. So here, where party spirit and party rancour are always rife—and you are much freer in your expression of rancours than we are—I think that the doctor's political opinions are not questioned. Therefore may we not at once assume that a great deal that would be necessary in speaking to the people of another profession is almost unnecessary here?

"Now let us see what an International Council of Nurses would mean. It would mean the giving of a new interest to the nurses of every country, the interest of bringing others into the international organization. Everywhere organization is strength. You heard, yesterday morning, that legislation touches your own profession, therefore your profession cannot be indifferent to legislation; and if you cannot be indifferent to legislation, you cannot be indifferent to the public opinion which produces legislation and compels it. Therefore, the knowledge that an International Council of Nurses had been organized would have the same effect upon other countries that in 1888 the knowledge that a National Council of Women was organized in the States had on other countries, for in every country in which the International Council has been accepted, excepting my own, the National Council of Women has been brought into being by the International Council. Now, granted that we have already an International Council of Women, in forming an International Council of Nurses, see what help you already have! In ten countries now there are affiliated National Councils of Women. If you start this movement, every one of these affiliated National Councils will get an impulse to bring the nurses of their own country into that National Council, and then, through them, all National Councils of Nurses into the International Council. But the countries where National Councils of Women are already formed are relatively independent of this need, because already in those countries it is the impulse of all organizations of women, of whatever profession, to bring these bodies into connection with their respective National Councils. So an additional impulse will be given by this movement to countries where National Councils have not yet been formed.

"I have no language to express the emotions stirred within me yesterday morning at the Meeting of Nurses, when Miss Watkins, from Cape Colony, told us of the organization of women in that country; and when you hear of the work of those registered trained nurses in Cape

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