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EDITORIAL.

MAN TO MAN.

If there is one lesson which more than another has been learned in these post-war years, it is the lesson of the immense value of personal man-to-man intercourse.—*H.R.H. The Prince of Wales at Ottawa.*

The Interim Conference of the International Council of Nurses at Geneva long looked forward to is now a thing of the past, its memories to be added to our storehouse of pleasures, and brought out from time to time that its lessons may sink deeper and deeper, that we may count over our treasures, estimate how much professional knowledge and skill we have gained to bring to the many-sided service that modern society demands of us, and realise how much our lives have been enriched by our intercourse with the nurses of other Nations, and by the hospitality so courteously extended to us.

A more ideal setting for the Conference of the Nurses of the 34 Nations could not have been secured. Geneva, on the lovely lake bearing its name, is pre-eminently an international city, and the international atmosphere at once made itself felt, and brought us into touch with the Nations of the world. It was a specially valuable atmosphere for nurses, whose horizons, by reason of the intensity of their work, are ordinarily restricted, and a revelation to those who attended a Conference convened by the International Council of Nurses for the first time of all that it denotes—the recognition of the importance and dignity of the Profession of Nursing by the Civic authorities who entertained the members of the Conference so hospitably and charmingly, the stimulus of contact with the Nurses of the world, the beauty of the surroundings, could not fail to inspire the Conference members and to impress them with the fact that “the International Council of Nurses does not stand for a narrow professionalism, but for the full development of the human being and citizen in every nurse.”

We place high in importance among the objects of the International Council of Nurses the opportunity for personal intercourse, a point strikingly emphasised by the Prince of Wales when, speaking at the Government Dinner at Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, on August 2nd, His Royal Highness said, “If there is one lesson which more than another has been learned in these post-war years, it is the lesson of the immense value of man-to-man intercourse.”

We of the International Council of Nurses know well the pleasure and the profit of meeting nurses of other nations, of the friendships formed and cemented, and

of the good will engendered. Correspondence is a poor substitute for personal contact, and one revelation which has resulted from “man to-man intercourse” is that we realise the similarity of our aims, and are agreed that the duty of the nurse is to prove by her consistent, altruistic methods, the grace and moral value of kindness, and that if the trained nurses of the world united to demonstrate the beauty of holiness, the blessings of peace between the nations would be surely and imperceptibly advanced. For in the tangled politics of the world trained nurses hold a specially privileged position, inasmuch as down through the ages their occupation has been the humanitarian work of the prevention and cure of disease. There is no nationality in Nursing. Wherever in peace or in war we find sickness or suffering there it is our duty to endeavour to heal and to comfort, be the patient friend or foe.

There is no body of professional workers who take the pleasures which come their way more happily and gaily than trained nurses, and yet they are marked with a certain soberness and restraint which indicate that they are a class set apart, charged with responsibilities which leave their mark upon them. For the Profession of Nursing deals with sacred things—not only with the Body but with the Spirit of man—with the mysteries of Birth, Life, Health, Sickness and Death. It stands on the threshold of the unseen and the unknown. It is our privilege not only to help to revive the current of life, but to solace and comfort those whose feet shrink from the touch of the chill waters of death, and the cheerfulness and gaiety of nurses should have their root in soberness of thought, and steadfastness of conduct—for who is sufficient for these things?

TO CANADA IN 1929.

The reception accorded to the announcement made by the President of the International Council of Nurses, that its meeting in 1929 will, by the invitation of the Canadian Nurses Association, be held in Montreal, left no doubt as to the popularity of the decision of the Board of Directors. And so to Canada, land of sunlit prairies, lakes, and rivers, giant mountains, wide spaces and waterfalls renowned throughout the world.

The Nurses of the Dominion from the Atlantic to the Pacific are solidly organised in their great Association, and the hospitals are some of the finest in the world. Moreover, we do not forget that in Canada resides one of our most honoured Foundation Members, and first Hon. Treasurer, Miss M. Agnes Snively, the Founder of the Canadian Nurses Association.

To our next merry meeting.

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