

"Please convey to the delegates to the Congress of the International Council of Nurses my sincere regret that I am unable to be with them this evening.

"As Governor-General of Canada, I extend to them a very hearty welcome, and trust that their deliberations may give further stimulus and encouragement to the splendid service they have given in the past, bringing relief and comfort to those who, for any cause, are suffering from sickness and ill-health."

"I need not say," said Mr. Rinfret, "that I feel greatly honoured in being present at this magnificent meeting, and I bless the occasion which affords me the pleasure of welcoming such a remarkable and representative gathering of women from every part of the world. My privilege is your loss, because I come to you on behalf of Their Excellencies the Governor-General and Lady Willingdon, who have found themselves unable to be present.

The Government's Welcome.

"I desire to tender you, on behalf of the Canadian Government, the most cordial and enthusiastic welcome. We appreciate, in a measure that you may well understand, the fact that you have chosen Canada for the place of your meeting, and that choice has encountered within our population the very deepest sense of gratitude. I hope you have found in this great country of ours—which will have pride in your presence for many more days—a reception fully in keeping with the importance of the event, and that you have already sensed the twice-blessed condition of Canada, which boasts equally of the beauty that nature has spread over it, and of the prosperity of its population.

"We take in your work the greatest interest and we look forward with confidence to the results of this international meeting, the magnitude of which appeals to every one. We are thankful for your presence and will ever be for the deep remembrance that it will leave in our minds. Again, on behalf of Their Excellencies and the Government of Canada, I extend to you the most cordial and complete welcome."

The Acting-Mayor's Welcome.

Alderman T. B. Fagan, Acting-Mayor, then said:—

"In the name of this great metropolitan city and its citizens in every walk of life, I welcome you most heartily. Mindful of the significance of your presence here, I am sure all Montreal feels justly proud that you should honour us by making our beautiful city the scene of your labours for the 1929 convention.

"It has been my privilege, officially, to see more of the work of your nursing sisters during the past few months than formerly, and I feel happy to be in the enviable position of expressing my regard on this occasion. Vocabularies are not rich enough in words to rightly express the love and admiration of citizens, both in public and private life, in a great city, to this recognised body of noble womanhood. So that when I say 'ten thousand welcomes,' I have said it all!

"The record of the devoted pioneer women working on the slopes of Ville-Marie among the plague-stricken savages in the early seventeenth century, may well be brought to mind now. Suffice then for me to say, dear Lady President and Ladies of the Council, that you stand on holy ground and that I wish you a most successful reunion, and may success continue to come to all your God-given labours in the future."

Welcome from McGill University.

Dean Ira McKay, of the Faculty of Arts, McGill University, welcomed the members of the Congress in the name of the Chancellor of the University, and said that no organisation was more welcome in Canada than the International Council of Nurses.

Welcome of Archbishop Gauthier.

The Rev. Father Derome, Chancellor of Montreal diocese, speaking for Monseigneur Georges Gauthier, Archbishop of Montreal, said that Montreal was highly honoured in having been chosen as the city for the deliberations of the International Council of Nurses. He reminded us also that this metropolis of Canada has certain claims to the Congress in that it is closely bound up with the history of nursing, and spoke of the noble work of Jeanne Mance, the first lay nurse to work in Canada, who went there from France in the seventeenth century, and founded the Hotel Dieu in Montreal.

The Welcome of the Canadian Medical Association.

A notable and sympathetic speech was that of Dr. A. T. Bazin, President of the Canadian Medical Association, who had deferred an important journey to Europe in order to be present at the meeting, who brought the greetings—the very warm greetings—of the Medical Profession, and assured the nurses that in their problems they had its sympathy. He told them also that the success of the doctors' efforts was largely in their hands. The President spoke of the economic position of the private duty nurse, pointing out that she represented 80 per cent. of the total number engaged in the profession.

"Her annual revenue, he said, is uncertain. She cannot budget with any degree of certainty. She gets so much per day and no more. The remedy for this seems to me," said Dr. Bazin, "to be the chief problem before you."

He went on to deal with the findings of one of the largest Canadian training schools, investigations showing, he said, that 80 per cent. of the time of the ward nurse was taken up with duties not definitely considered essentially nursing. Inquiries revealed, he added, that about 12 per cent. of graduate nurses are engaged in institutional work, 8 per cent. on public health and 80 per cent. in private duty work.

The Welcome of the Canadian Nurses' Association.

Miss Mabel F. Hersey, President of the Canadian Nurses' Association, brought its greetings to the Congress, and said that its members wanted their colleagues to feel very welcome.

The President's Response.

Miss Nina D. Gage, expressing the thanks of the International Council of Nurses to the speakers for their kind words of welcome, said that in Montreal a welcome came out to the members of the Congress even from the man in the street. Even the policeman on the street who saw them trying to cross it raised his hand and stopped the traffic. They were impressed by the co-operation of every member of society. They would study how the welcome was given so that they might take back the message to their own countries. It would help them to do better work and take their part in the organisation of society toward making a much better and happier world, in which there would be no communicable disease. "Think," she said, "of a world with no tuberculosis, no diphtheria, no typhoid. Think of a world where everyone knows how to take care of himself mentally so that there are no mental breakdowns. That is the world toward which we are all striving. We shall be able to take back to our own countries the message you are all giving us to help us in our work."

The meeting concluded with the playing, by the band, of "O Canada," and then quickly the vast audience disappeared into the velvet night and the Canadian Nurses' Association had gone on record for carrying through the greatest meeting of nurses which the world has ever seen without a hitch. It was a triumph of organisation and a magnificent success.

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