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EDITORIAL.

THE SPIRIT OF INTERNATIONALISM.

There is little doubt that the Spirit of Internationalism has of late inspired the nurses in Great Britain, which proves that they are no longer content to revolve in a somewhat circumscribed orbit, and think all is well; and to respond to inspiration denotes energy and energy demands action—and action should result in execution—and so on all alive—so, so together we go!

A marked uplift has been the result of attendance at the great international gathering at Montreal last year, when upwards of 7,000 nurses of all nations came into personal touch with one another. Never before has the International Congress been held in such a spacious environment as in the great Dominion of Canada, land of mighty mountains and flowing waters, of undulating prairies and strenuous peoples. And is it not good to be caught up to a transcendental plane for a while, to breathe its atmosphere and absorb its spirit—so that this change of environment may result in a renewal of moral force, and divest us of that fatal sense of self-satisfaction so inimical to progress?

The true purpose of our professional meetings abroad is education in its highest and most lasting form—that we may come into touch with new ideas and values, so that on returning to our dear native lands we may strive to put into practice the ideals with which we have been inspired, through intercourse with our colleagues during the Congress week. Once experience such association and we realise it is the very breath of vocational life.

We realise also that it is not alone at international meetings that we are open to their fraternal influence—so humanising in its effect, but that through the capitals of the world, in these days of adventure, our nurse friends are constantly coming and going, so that we await and receive with pleasure the news that they are in our midst, and at once set about how best to entertain them and hear their news. We realise that it is well worth while to keep in touch with these international friends, and with the fuller life that their friendship has brought us.

A distinguished visitor recently has been Miss Effie J. Taylor, R.N., M.A., Associate Professor, Yale University School of Nursing, and Superintendent of Nurses at the Newhaven Hospital, Connecticut, U.S.A.

Nurses in many parts of the world are watching with special interest the progress of this school, organised on novel lines, subsidised by the Rockefeller Foundation, and developing under the progressive care of Professor

A. W. Goodrich, R.N., D.Sc. On her cordial invitation several of the delegates of the International Council of Nurses visited it last year to study its methods, and there made friends with Miss Effie Taylor, who is Associate Professor with Miss Goodrich.

Consequently when Miss Taylor arrived in this country a warm welcome awaited her. She spent some days as the guest of the matrons of St. Thomas's Hospital and University College Hospital, visited St. Bartholomew's, Guy's, the London, and many other institutions, at all of which she was greeted as a distinguished guest. While at St. Thomas's several friends had the pleasure of meeting her at dinner by the kind invitation of Miss Lloyd-Still.

On the invitation of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, Miss Taylor met at tea at 39, Portland Place, the Hon. Officers of the National Council and other members, and was shown and greatly admired the beautiful room in which the meetings of our N.C.N. are held, the clerical work carried out, and where the archives are stored.

Other friends of Miss Taylor concerned in international nursing affairs met her at dinner at the Cowdray Club, when Miss Sparshott, President of the College of Nursing, proposed the toast in her honour, to which she made an eloquent and feeling reply, and Miss Lloyd-Still that of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Founder of the International Council of Nurses, who in expressing thanks reminded those present of the wonderful progress of the Nurses' International since founded in London thirty years ago, and sent warm greetings to its first wonderful Secretary, Lavinia Dock, to Miss Nutting and Miss Goodrich, Foundation Members and Councillors U.S.A.

It will thus be noted that when colleagues of distinction visit our country—mother of trained nursing—we have facilities to do them honour, and can unite to entertain them with good old British hospitality. The nurses affiliated in the International Council of Nurses have affirmed in their Constitution that the best good of the world will be advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy and purpose, and also that citizenship of the world is an essential qualification of those whose aim it is to make it healthier and more harmonious, and that we nurses as human entities must increase our sympathy and understanding until we become an indivisible whole and wield potent power for righteousness.

Moral force must ultimately control the lower instincts in the human race, and the Little Sisters of Sympathy, federated in the International Council of Nurses, have a lovely part to play in the inevitable evolution of peace with honour.

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