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## EDITORIAL.

### PRESIDENT D'HONNEUR OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NURSES.

The arrangements for the Paris-Brussels Congress convened by the International Council of Nurses for July of next year, in the able hands in Paris of the President, Mlle. Chaptal, are quickly taking shape, and the official organ of *L'Association Nationale des Infirmières Diplômées de l'Etat Français (L'Infirmière Française)* brings the gratifying news that the President of the French Republic, M. Doumer, has honoured the Nursing Profession by intimating that he will act as *President d'Honneur* of the Congress. Further, that he has announced his intention of inviting the members of the Board of Directors together with all the Delegates on the Grand Council of the International Congress of Nurses to a Reception in his summer residence, the Chateau de Rambouillet.

Rambouillet, placed in the middle of a large forest, was the property of Jacques d'Angennes when François the First died there in March 1547. Then the place belonged to the General Director of the Treasury, Fleuriau d'Armenonville, who made very important improvements. In 1706, the Comte de Toulouse became the owner and received there Louis the Fourteenth. Napoleon came hunting, and gave there the decree which brought Holland to the Empire. Marie-Louise spent in the Chateau one night in 1814 and came back with the Roi de Rome, before her flight to Vienna. After Waterloo, Napoleon stopped for a night in Rambouillet, before his final departure.

The private apartments of the President are on the first floor; and the rooms are beautifully decorated. Some of these possess panels from the 17th Century. The reception room was used as a Council Room by the Kings.

The International Council of Nurses has been greeted with the utmost courtesy by hostess Councils, and members of respective Governments wherever it has held its Congresses, and indeed, King Edward VII was kindness itself in granting privileges in 1909—but it has remained for the President of the French Republic, the supreme Head of Government in France, to recognise the Profession of Nursing by according to the International Council of Nurses the most honourable official recognition. We congratulate La Belle France.

### THE SEED OF SOLIDARITY.

We skim many professional journals in a month (would that we had time to *study* them) and many pregnant paragraphs cling to memory when their source is lost. One of these sayings caught the eye quite recently: "Give the Graduate a Chance to Grow."

That is sound advice, and it was with this intention that upwards of thirty years ago we foresaw that if a Nurses' Council was to be truly national, and express nursing opinion, it must be based on the Graduate Vote.

Such vote alone can sow the seed of solidarity.

Organised in a limited group in a League of Hospital Nurses—or in a group of specialists—Matrons—Sister-Tutors—Private Nurses—Health Visitors, etc., the members feel less diffident than in Council in a large organisation, governed by experienced leaders and members of other learned professions. It is in small and intimate associations that the graduate can find her voice and put forth her considered, and often valuable, opinion, or for that matter, her fancies. The consideration of League business is an excellent school in which to learn the methods of public business, and the all-round routine of conducting it, and having become conversant with such rules and regulations, the delegates deputed to represent the League on the National Council of Nurses are prepared to take an intelligent interest in the wider area of national affairs. It is but a step from national to international interest and here, indeed, we find the seed of solidarity has produced the most widespread sympathy between the nurses of all nations. They may not agree in every detail, it would be dull if they did, but in taking a world-wide estimate of humanity, its uplift and betterment, is the mainspring of every vocational nurse.

Yes, let us give the graduate a chance to grow.

In close and intimate association let her learn the value of co-operation, form her opinions and become articulate. Then encourage her to step beyond the institute gates, and braced with fresh air let her come into touch with the Nation's Nurses and expand and grow, and when she becomes a liberal-minded, sincere and admirable nationalist, let her aspire to international communion—our graduate will in the process shed some prejudice and realise the inspiring qualities of colleagues from near and far. During these advances our graduate will surely realise that in past decades inspired leaders in many lands sowed the seed of solidarity and have thus given her a chance to grow.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)