

Amongst those present were Miss Gertrude Rogers (Great Britain), Miss M. Huxley (Ireland), Miss Adelaide Nutting (U.S.A.), Miss Agnes Snively (Canada), Miss Lanschot-Hubrecht (Holland), Miss Bergliot Larsson (Norway), the Countess Jean de Merode (Belgium), Miss Take Hagiwara (Japan), M. Andre Mesureur (France) and a multitude of interesting personalities in the nursing world from many countries.

The paper of the Congress was undoubtedly that by Dr. Hecker, who had taken immense pains in its preparation, on "The Overstrain of Nurses," it was afterward published as a pamphlet, and is a valuable contribution to the study of this subject.

Early in the Congress it was decided with enthusiasm to accept the cordial invitation from the American Nurses' Association, conveyed by Miss Dock, to meet in San Francisco in 1915, during the great exhibition to be held there in celebration of the opening of the Panama Canal, and a cable was sent to Miss Goodrich asking her to accept the office of President of the I.C.N. for the period 1912-1915.

Before the end of the Congress Miss Goodrich's acceptance of office was received, and the future seemed full of promise. (Alas, before 1915 the dogs of war had been let loose, and the only meeting possible in San Francisco was a short Executive for business purposes, when Mrs. Henny Tscherning was elected President for the ensuing period.)

Many were the expeditions arranged for our pleasure and profit by our kind hostesses, but the expedition of the Congress was that to Kaiserswerth, and we boarded the steamboat which was to take us from Cologne to Kaiserswerth with a thrill of expectation. Were we not going to the house of the life's work of Friederike Fliedner? To see the very room occupied by Florence Nightingale when she stayed with the good deaconesses? Verily we were about to enter on holy ground, and we carried with us a wreath for the grave of Friederike. Curiously enough, when we asked to be shown its locality a deaconess, with some surprise, asked, did we not wish to place the wreath on the grave of Herr Pastor? But we assured her that, much as we revered the Pastor, it was Friederike, his wife, to whom came the inspiration of training deaconesses to nurse the sick, whom we desired to honour.

We were taken round the various works by some of the Deaconesses including the "Home of Evening Rest" for the Deaconesses past work. Such pleasant, placid faces they all had; as one of our number remarked "none of them had any problems." Then we had an address from Sister Julie Borgas who spoke to us in fluent English of a visit she paid to London. She desired quietly to see Miss Nightingale

but could find no one who could tell her where she lived! However, perseverance and pertinacity won the day and Miss Nightingale received her most kindly. We took a reluctant leave of Kaiserswerth and its kind Sisters. A memorable day indeed.

The most far-reaching event of the Congress in its after-effects was the delightful Banquet with which it closed, at which Sister Karll presided. For this was the occasion when Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, seconded by Miss Adelaide Nutting, proposed that the Nurses of the world associated together in the International Council of Nurses should inaugurate an Educational Memorial to Florence Nightingale. That proposal, kept alive for twenty years, is now at length materialising.

It was at Cologne that Sister Larsson first attended an International Congress, and, speaking at the Banquet, announced her intention of founding a National Council of Nurses in Norway on her return, which she promptly did.

#### SAN FRANCISCO 1915.

As we have related, the Congress at San Francisco in 1915, to which the nurses of the world had looked forward with such keen anticipation, and at which it had been planned to have a wonderful open-air procession of nurses, bearing gifts for the Florence Nightingale Memorial, was of necessity abandoned. An Executive Committee was held which was attended with considerable personal risk by two British Delegates, the late Miss A. E. Hulme and Miss Beatrice Kent, presided over by Miss A. W. Goodrich. Mrs. Tscherning, of Denmark, was elected President, and the hope was expressed for a meeting in 1918 in that hospitable country.

#### ATLANTA 1920.

That hope, however, remained unfulfilled. A meeting of the Executive was called to meet in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1920, and was attended by Miss Clara D. Noyes, at that time President of the American Nurses' Association, Baroness Mannerheim and two others,

but as these did not form a quorum, official action could not be taken.

#### COPENHAGEN 1922.

It was not until 1922 that Mrs. Tscherning felt the time opportune for summoning a meeting of the Grand Council of the I.C.N. There were then applications from five National Councils of Nurses to be considered and a new President to be elected. A Congress, which is no integral part of a Meeting of the Grand Council, was not convened, for so eager were the Associations affiliated in the International Council of Nurses to meet each other once more, that Mrs. Tscherning could not face the descent upon Copenhagen of thousands of nurses, and she foresaw that



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