

influenced, and is still being influenced, by that of the many French and Belgian surgeons and physicians whose names make medical history, and we hold in veneration the name of Louis Pasteur—that great scientist on whose discoveries so much of our modern work is based.

Ladies—I fear lest the manifold attractions of these two beautiful and interesting cities—Paris and Brussels—may cause you to forget the real object of our meeting. May I point out to you the path of duty which leads here—to the Salle Pleyel—and in Brussels to the Palais des Beaux-Arts, and beg you not to forsake it entirely in favour of other enticing paths which lead to beautiful Churches, Historical Monuments, Picture Galleries, where you will lose count of time, perchance also to the Rue de la Paix—the Rue Royale in Brussels, and other very distracting places.

The programme of work before us is long and varied. Opportunity will be given to discuss many sides of nursing work and the problems connected with it, and with the educational, economic and other aspects of the Nurses' life.

His Majesty King George, speaking in London recently on an occasion of great importance in the British Empire, said—"History shows that all development comes out of the slow human processes of trial and error, of experiment and adjustment."

We have come to the Conference to pool our experiences—to describe our trials and experiments, to recount our errors and our successes, in order that we may advance the development of our profession, and—in the words of the Preamble to our Constitution—may "improve our work in the service of the sick, promote the health of the Nations and secure the honour and the interest of the Nursing Profession."

In addition to the programme of work, our kind hosts have arranged a number of those delightful social events which play no small part in such gatherings as these. At these happy and informal meetings we nurses of divers Nations learn to know each other better, to understand each other's point of view, we take each other by the hand and make friends one with another. May the links of friendship and understanding, so begun, endure together with the greater unity of thought, sympathy and purpose which the International Council of Nurses seeks to promote, so that in time the nurses of the world may become united in one great Fellowship of Service to the Glory of God and the furtherance of the work which He has given us to do. (Loud applause.)

The following Address of Welcome spoken with such warm good feeling by the French Minister of Public Health, inspired the Sessions of the Congress which followed with a spirit of hope and fellowship.

**ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY MONSIEUR DANIELOU,  
HIS EXCELLENCY THE FRENCH MINISTER OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH.**

MADAM CHAIR, LADIES: You did me a great honour, and I appreciate it to the full, by inviting me to be present this morning at the first meeting of your International Congress.

With real pleasure I welcome the foreign members of the Congress who have graciously accepted for a few days France's hospitality.

I am all the more proud to have the privilege of fulfilling such a pleasant duty because of the character and importance of this meeting; the least I can say about it is that it stands out as the most representative school of feminine kindness placed at the service of human suffering and misery. And so, ladies, when I bring you the respectful greetings of the Government of the French Republic, I beg you to see in it at the same time the expression of our gratitude which is only equalled by our admiration for your noble work.

You are, amongst us, delegates from forty nations, all of whose names I would like to mention individually and which I include in a common homage. Whether you have come from the countries of old Europe or, crossing the Atlantic, from the New World, from India, China, Japan or South Africa, I like to think of you only as members of an international union of hearts, and as such I give you all one and the same greeting. (Cheers.)

Amongst your foreign colleagues, you, Mademoiselle Chaptal, are entitled to a special homage. A few weeks ago when you came to inform me that this meeting was to be held in Paris, you modestly added: "France was chosen for the venue of the 7th International Congress of Certificated Hospital and Visiting Nurses; the reason for that choice was no doubt the progress realised in our country, since a State Diploma was created, in the practice of the profession and the technical preparation of the personnel, as well as in the results obtained." I know your respect for truth, but on that day you did not tell me the whole truth: even more than the progress realised in France in the province of sanitary education and hygiene, it is because of your international activity, your enterprising, organising and persuasive spirit, which your foreign colleagues fully recognised, because of the extent of your personal work, that you were elected to be President of the International Congress, and that, afterwards, our country was chosen, as represented by you. (Cheers.)

After spending all your life in trying to find means of internationalising your efforts, nothing could certainly bring greater delight to you, as a true French woman than that homage given, because of your efforts, by foreign nations to our dear fatherland.

Before you, and the same as you, foreign members now present here, have been similarly honoured. After you this precious inheritance will be handed down to others.

Allowing for slight differences resulting from various nationalities, you are all united in your common will to rescue from disease or death the greatest possible number of poor folk. The invaluable radiance of your activity and of your experience, the daily practice of the professional duty of which you are the living incarnation, have made it possible for numbers of young nurses to mould themselves promptly into shape under the guidance of your mind.

It was sufficient for me, when I arrived here, to cast a few glances over this immense hall, to be able to appreciate to its just value the complete extent of your work, the respect you are surrounded with, and the zeal you inspire in those learners whose technical instruction and professional value you daily increase.

More than 200,000 young women have felt the benefit

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