

of your organisation. The associations becoming affiliated to your committee, grow daily in number. Your secretariat has established in all the nations represented on your high council, sources of information and documentation in increasing number, which are indispensable for the unceasing war you wage against social scourges. Your meetings have enabled you to bring to perfection real monuments of experimental science, the faultless technical worth of which has been brought to my notice. This, as well as increasing the value of your profession, at the same time benefits your patients, and, as these common investigations go on, ties of friendship are formed in meetings such as this one.

I have read your programme, all headings of which testify to your purpose to be efficient collaborators of the physician and your desire to be lavish in self denial always unstinted and indefatigable.

You have become indispensable helpers to families. At every moment, the hygienic education of the mother claims your assistance. In our French provinces, you provide the link between the preventive side of our social hygiene organisations, of our antituberculous, antivenereal clinics, and the hospital consultations. You supervise also the right application of our laws for social protection, workers' protection, by making sure that compensations are equitably granted, that mothers receive the allowances and benefits to which our laws entitle them. Finally you take a part in looking after children assisted or brought up by the nation.

Thus your activities have become universal at the same time as they became intellectual. You have gone further than the doorsteps of the hospitals and clinics. You go to people's houses, to factories, to schools, to villages. Everywhere one meets you! What splendid activity! But also how tiring all this is, often to the point of exhaustion—we know it only too well—all those tramps on the high and dark staircases of workers' houses, up and down which you have to go continually many times daily! And what about the visits in all sorts of weather, in pouring rain, in the cold, in the country, from which you sometimes bring back the fatal cough and the disease you had gone to cure! And while I evoke these hard times, my thoughts go towards those who were your sisters, whose blue shadow is amongst you and who died, victims of duty. (Cheers.)

For you every day, every hour brings new and difficult problems which are added to all the previous ones. I will mention a few which are indicated in your agenda: responsibility of the nurse side by side with that of the physician; the nurse in her relations with the employer and the employee; part played by the nurse in secondary schools; relations between the school visiting nurse and the school mistress; working hours in public hospitals; status and conditions of work of the nurse, etc., questions to which should be added the distressing problem of supply and demand, inspection of training schools for nurses, and how many more!

In this Congress you will easily solve all these problems, thanks to the experience of those who have already, every day, been confronted by the difficulties inherent in the cases they come into contact with, each in her own country, in similar tasks, whether they are heads of

their training schools for nurses, or town or country nurses or deficient children's nurses.

New ways of education are expected of this Congress by the patients, mothers and children, who await your return, and I am sure that none of them will be disappointed. Your conscience and your activity have now been recognised and are admired by everybody.

In three years, in France, the number of such training schools will have been doubled and the number of learners will have increased in the same proportion. The country knows what it owes you. We shall neglect nothing to help you in your task and make your future safe.

Your association in France, founded in 1923, recognised officially as an association of public utility in 1932, affiliated in 1925 to the International Council, has in its articles of association the following item which I remember better than any other: "To support professional interests of sick and visiting nurses, and particularly to help them in case of illness and secure for them an adequate pension."

You will find me with you to help you in attaining such an object. The least that those who give freely their time, their self denial, their heart, can expect is that they can rely on their Minister. (Cheers.)

I wish to my countrywomen that these meetings should be valuable for them for their studies and their experience. I do not doubt that their welcome to their foreign colleagues will be charming, considerate and delicate, as is always a welcome extended by France's young women.

And you, Ladies, who have come from such different countries, you are welcome amongst us. France is happy to receive you and so is Paris, always hospitable and more so to you than to anybody else, as she well knows the cause whose indefatigable pioneers you are. Whatever your country may be, Paris admires you and loves you. And when your Congress has finished its work, in the affinity of thought and the harmony of hearts—a great lesson given to men—it will be with regret we shall see you leave us to return to your own dear countries, whose generous missionaries you have been. I am sure that on your part you will remember the all too short days spent amongst your French colleagues. You are all a large family and in your work you are all alike. Your realm has no frontiers. It belongs to all and to each. It is universal kindness. (Prolonged applause.)

At the end of this most sympathetic Address, the inaugural Meeting terminated, the whole audience realising the generous recognition accorded to their profession by the appreciative speeches delivered by so many eminent men and women—which placed the Congress on so high a plane.

Miss Clara C. Noyes then took the Chair and conducted the Business General Session, with her special capacity, when numerous Reports were presented, and the routine Sectional Meetings of the Congress were opened and were crowded from day to day.

Social luncheons were held daily, at which questions of interest were discussed and at which good fellowship was apparent.

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