

## THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

There is no doubt that Geneva inspires not only admiration for its beauty, but envelops visitors in an international atmosphere, and awakens in them what the late Clara Barton so aptly described as an "international heart."

During a recent visit, when the weather was superb, never can the translucent waters of its Lake and sparkling fountains have reflected more exquisitely the charm of its surroundings. Hotels hidden by terraces of brilliant flowers. Avenues of lime trees intoxicatingly sweet, and in the night hours moon and stars a real consolation for the sleepless hours of overtired brains, and Mont Blanc flaming into dazzling incandescence as an imperial sun arises to announce the coming of day.

And why song birds in July? With dawn in the Jardin des Alpes—a black bird, gay, gay little songster, would be calling "awake, awake, sleep no more idle dreamer—all the beauty of the world is around you—and is fleeing away."

What also is fleeing away is the value of the franc, and duty demands attendance at the Quai Gustave Ador, to listen to dissertations on expenditure and help balance the budget. Some hours having been spent in this imperative duty, and having realised what we owe to the financial acumen of our indefatigable Treasurer, we are reminded that *Le Comité International de la Croix Rouge prie Madame . . . de lui faire l'honneur de venir prendre une tasse de thé a la Villa Moynier*, and with relief we close our folders and remember the prowess of the great Henri Dunant of Geneva, who in 1862 inspired the movement which has become associated with the words "Red Cross," which to-day is the symbol of humanitarian endeavour throughout the world.

By boat and car we presently arrive at the Villa Moynier to be most graciously welcomed by Mlle. Lucie Odier, and many members of the International Red Cross Committee, and the *tasse de thé* we find supplemented with beverages deliciously cool, and tasty tit-bits iced with sugar and cream.

Mlle. Odier, Director of the Red Cross Visiting Nursing Service of Geneva and a Vice-President of our Florence Nightingale International Foundation, made us the following address of welcome.

ALLOUCTION PRONONCÉE PAR M<sup>LE</sup>. LUCIE ODIER  
À LA RÉCEPTION OFFERTE LE COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE LE 11<sup>TH</sup> JUILLET  
À LA VILLA MOYNIER.

I should like to give you, in the name of the International Red Cross Committee, a very hearty welcome in this house. To you Dame Alicia, President of the International Council of Nurses, to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Founder of your Association and to every one of you nurses and friends of different countries from all over the world.

I do this with a double pleasure, in my double capacity, as a member of our Committee and as a nurse of our Swiss Association.

It is two years now since the International Red Cross Committee set up its headquarters in this house, the home of the family Moynier.

As you know, Gustave Moynier was a friend of Henri Dunant and in 1863 he was one of the five founders of the Red Cross, or rather, I should say, of what was later called the Red Cross.

In fact, it was Henri Dunant who first had the idea of an international organisation of this kind, but it was Gustave Moynier, who with his clear mind and practical intelligence, actually organised the Red Cross on a large and

strong basis. President of our International Red Cross Committee during forty-seven years, he entirely devoted his life to the ideal of the Red Cross.

Later, his son Adolphe Moynier, who died only two years ago, was secretary and member of our Committee.

When I am in this old house, with its beautiful garden and lovely view of the lake and of the mountains, I cannot but imagine, that there may have been something in its atmosphere which must have inspired our predecessors and old pioneers of the Red Cross.

In our papers, we find many references to receptions of foreign guests here, in this house, and, to-day, we have the pleasure to add a new leaf to this long and time-renewed list.

We all of us work in the same large field of activity, with the view of reducing human suffering. As a matter of fact the Red Cross cannot fulfil its task without the nurses. Allow me to add that in time of war, or in case of a big disaster, all the work cannot be done by the nurses without the Red Cross. A close collaboration well organised is a joy and a warrant of success, and, therefore, we hope that every one of you will find herself "at home" here this afternoon.

We believe in the success of your present meeting, Madam President, and we wish the International Council of Nurses a prosperous, active, and happy future.

### OUR INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT REPLIES.

Our International President, Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, feelingly returned thanks upon our behalf.

We then had the honour of inscribing our names in an Historic Book and were shown the charming Villa where interesting mementoes are carefully preserved.

From the Terrace—the original lovely gardens sloping to the Lake are now open to, and enjoyed by the public.

We spent an enchanting hour.

In bidding farewell to our very kind hosts and the Villa Moynier, we carried away one more picture of the places where in this world great ideas have materialised into great deeds for the benefit of mankind.

These places are sacred ground.

Purity of Eternal Snows.

The Sound of singing birds saluting Light.

Communion of the Souls of Men.

With these incomparable ecstasies what matters the depreciation of dross?

E. G. F.

### A FINE TRIBUTE.

The following tribute to the good work done by the Trained Nurses' Association of India appeared in a recent issue of *The Statesman*.

"An engagement noted in our current engagements column in connexion with the Trained Nurses' Association of India affords the opportunity of reminding our readers what India's nurses are doing to raise the efficiency and prestige of their profession. In 1908 they formed the Association, in 1917 it was formally registered, and for twenty-seven years they have laboured steadily through the Association to uphold the honour and dignity of their calling, to promote a corporate spirit throughout the profession, and in all ways to serve their profession well as a way of serving the country well. They have taken all possible steps to keep in touch with technical advance in other countries, have taxed themselves to send representatives to conferences in other countries; and in many other ways have worked to improve their professional status in a country where not long ago they had none, the need of them being little understood. All this has called for a great amount of steady leadership."

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