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EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, REGISTERED NURSE.

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## EDITORIAL.

### OUR DUTY AND PLEASURE.

With the advent of 1936 we realise that there only remains one whole year before the Nurses of the world of 39 nationalities, forgather in London for their quadrennial International Congress, and that upon the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, as the hostess country, devolves the responsibility of making the Congress an outstanding success. We have no doubts on that score, but to achieve it means much hard work on the part of the nursing organisations affiliated with the National Council. The nurses of Great Britain are the citizens of a great Empire, our professional Council is one of the three which affiliated together in 1904 to compose the International Council of Nurses, which until then had been formed of individuals. When we meet in 1937 it will be over a quarter of a century since the International Council of Nurses met in London, and it is unlikely that it will be held again in this country in the lifetime of most of us. Therefore let members of the constituent associations consider what gifts they have to place at the disposal of the Organising Committee of the Congress and devote them freely where they can be best applied.

### A Year of Intensive Preparation.

The year 1935 was, for the British nation, including its nurses, a year of thanksgiving, of pageantry, of National rejoicing: 1936 will be for nurses a year of intensive preparation so that 1937 may be one of achievement, proving to our guests from both hemispheres our joy in the honour they have done us in coming from the ends of the earth to confer with us on matters affecting our profession, our pleasure in showing to them some of the beauties of our native land, and in demonstrating our professional pride in attracting to this country colleagues who have striven valiantly to raise the standard of nursing in their respective spheres, so that they are honoured and esteemed by the workers and thinkers of the world.

In addition to these the Congress Committee will have a warm welcome for nurses from all countries, young, ardent and enthusiastic, now entering upon their life's work for, if the International Council of Nurses is to maintain the vigour of its foundation, it must have the allegiance and support of the younger generation of nurses, and their seniors who, through it, have found inspiration, happiness, and the broadening of their whole professional and mental outlook must desire that nurses looking forward to a long term of active service

shall find the same happiness in developing the work and influence of the Council, the foundations of which have been well and truly laid.

The opportunities for the development and expansion of the work of trained nurses was never greater than at the present time. In the activities of the Social Services, with the object of raising the standard of the national health in all parts of the world there is need for many trained workers, and in helping in the practical administration of these Services many nurses can find an outlet for their special gifts, and find happiness in the knowledge that through the exercise of these they can assist in the promotion of the physical well-being of their generation. Conference and an interchange of experience, and discussion of their problems and difficulties between the nurses of the world cannot fail to be of great utility.

### Concentration on the Endowment of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

The second object upon which the nurses of all nations are concentrating their attention in 1936 is the support and endowment of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation as an educational memorial worthy of their great lawgiver.

In the public mind the name of Florence Nightingale is associated with her services to the sick and wounded soldiers in the Crimean War: they were indeed monumental. But nurses know that these constituted but a fraction of her life's work, and that by her insistence on the observance of the laws of hygiene, and the establishment of nursing education on a scientific basis on a system which she defined, her greatness and genius, which they desire shall be commemorated for all time, are mainly demonstrated.

From the shining torch uplifted by Florence Nightingale for all the world to see, many others have caught fire, and their bearers touched by the spirit with which she was inflamed have consecrated their lives to the service of the sick and the promotion of the health of the peoples. Soon we shall be again commemorating her birthday, and bringing our gifts to her international memorial. As we make our offering with this purpose on May 12th let it represent in some degree our realisation of our debt to her, the more worthy if it is penetrated with the spirit of sacrifice which is one of the greatest regenerating forces in the world.

Make her a goodly chaplet of azured Colombine,  
And wreath about her coronet with sweetest Eglantine,  
With roses damask, white, and red, and fairest flower delice,  
With Cowslips of Jerusalem, and cloves of Paradise.

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