

THE AMERICAN NURSING WORLD.

THE BIENNIAL CONVENTION.

The August number of the *American Journal of Nursing* is full of news of the National Biennial Nurses' Convention—the conjoint Convention of the American Nurses' Association, and National League of Nursing Education, and the National Organisation for Public Health Nursing, held in Los Angeles from June 21st to June 26th. Miss Susan C. Francis, President A.N.A., presided at the opening session on Monday evening, Miss Effie J. Taylor, League President, at the conjoint session on Tuesday evening, when an address made by Miss Isabel Stewart on "Preparing Nurses to Meet the Needs of a Changing Society," in which she reviewed the social forces which are making new demands on nurses, is described as "a prophecy and a challenge."

On the Thursday evening, Miss Amelia Grant, President N.O.P.H.N., presided, and the nurses chorus sang again, and an appreciative audience learned that the anthem "Appeal to the Great Spirit," composed by Ivers Louise Ashley, which the chorus sang at the memorial service to Miss Nightingale on Sunday afternoon, June 21st, had been dedicated by the family of the composer to the Florence Nightingale Foundation. It was also announced that Mrs. Chester Ashley had generously arranged for the sale of 2,000 copies of the anthem for the benefit of the Foundation.

At this session, Miss Annie W. Goodrich, speaking on the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, said: "Of its timeliness and accord with Miss Nightingale's principles and practice there can be no question. . . . It is not possible to conceive of a memorial to Florence Nightingale that is not concerned with the smallest unit of society, the family, or is less than international in scope. It is historically consistent that factors in her two profound interests—lessening the horrors of war and averting the unnecessary ills of daily life—should combine in a world-wide enterprise through which, in her name, these interests will be served. So entirely consistent is the co-operation of these two international activities, the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Council of Nurses, in the establishment of a living and enduring tribute to this woman, whose name is cut deep in their foundations, that we are justified in conceiving this project, with its immeasurable potentialities as foreordained as is the movement of the stars."

Amplifiers.

We note in the Report of the Convention a practical point which is worthy of note by those organising large Congresses. "One doesn't need, we read, to be a very old hand at convention-going to be grateful for amplifiers." A refinement of this service at Los Angeles was the amplifier on the floor of the auditorium for the use of delegates. Apparently, they liked using it, for discussions were animated during all sessions of the House of Delegates and, best of all, could be heard by everyone.

The Subsidiary Worker.

The subsidiary worker was a subject of lively interest. "If the spirit of Florence Nightingale permeated the Biennial, not a few delegates felt that the ghost of Sairey Gamp—unhallowed patron of the unskilled subsidiary worker—also haunted a good many of the sessions. . . .

"The private-duty nurses were much roused—and rightly so—by the fact that untrained workers are competing with them, as well as with hospital staff nurses, in the care of patients, and they presented a resolution at the closing session which was accepted by the House of Delegates." The question is evidently a very vital and lively one.

THE CANADIAN NURSING WORLD.

The Eighteenth General Meeting of the Canadian Nurses' Association, held in Vancouver from June 29th to July 4th, has been acclaimed, like each successive meeting, as "the best we have ever held," and justly, says *The Canadian Nurse*, as "in other words, there has been such steady progress through the years that at each Biennial we have been able to look back and to see how far we have come. At this meeting, however, there was something new in the air: there was that sense of balance, cool judgment, and common-sense, which comes only with maturity. As an Association we have come of age."

A warm word of appreciation is accorded by our contemporary to the President of the Canadian Nurses' Association, Miss Ruby M. Simpson, O.B.E., who "gave a practical demonstration of what can be accomplished when issues of great importance are ably discussed under leadership of a very high order. Through six exacting and difficult days she maintained her courtesy, firmness, and sense of humour. No matter how hot the debate, her fairness and impartiality were never in question. Her poise and dignity graced every social occasion, and, in a word, she measured up to the requirements of the responsible position she holds."

Miss Simpson's presidential address is given in full. In the course of it she said:—

"The major issues with which we are faced at this time may be stated quite briefly: On the one hand, the preparation of the nurse for the community service and, on the other, the organisation of nursing services through which the community may be served. All our problems fall rather naturally within one or other of these groups. When they have been worked out to the mutual satisfaction of ourselves and the community, then the nursing profession will have fulfilled its destiny, that destiny which was envisioned by our predecessors who, long ago, laid so well and so truly the foundations on which we are privileged to build. We shall then, in truth, give to the health of the people, regardless of all else than the need, the skilled care of which we and we alone are capable."

The Curriculum for Canadian Nursing Schools.

"At this meeting the product of more than four years of serious thought, meticulous care and arduous labour will be presented to you in the form of the Curriculum for Canadian Nursing Schools prepared by a special committee representative of all groups and under the leadership of the Nursing Education Section. As you read it, you will note with interest the linking up of preparations and service, in the strong emphasis which has been placed throughout on the positive aspects of health, on the function of the nurse as a health teacher and on the various phases of community adjustment. We cannot say that the work of the committee is finished. A curriculum is never finished. It is not a static, but a living, growing thing, which must be constantly in the process of revision if it is to meet the need of this ever-changing world."

Inspection of nursing schools has been given constructive thought in provinces where this essential service has been long delayed. An official, aptly termed a nursing school adviser, has recently been appointed in one province; plans for similar action are well under way in another.

Another fact which should be noted is the marked increase in the use of graduate nurses for general hospital duty. This is strictly evident in all parts of Canada. Whole sections of large hospitals are in some cases staffed with graduates, while in others the entire service is strengthened by their use in strategic positions.

A new curriculum, some reduction in schools and students, more adequate supervision, an increase in graduate service—these are indications of progress.

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