

## LONDON, 1909.

In 1909 the International Council of Nurses met in London, under the Presidency of its Hon. President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and for the first time the Grand Council was represented by official delegates, notable amongst whom were Miss Anna Maxwell, and Miss Jane Delano, from the United States. Graven on our hearts is the memory of its opening Session in the Great Hall of the Church House, Westminster, when the Watchword "Life" was given by the Hon. President, and the Delegates, and contingents of nurses from many countries, as well as Great Britain, were welcomed by Miss I. Stewart. Amongst those on the platform were Miss Annie Goodrich, President of the American Nurses' Association, who, in its name, asked the acceptance of its Hon. Membership by Mrs. Fenwick and Miss Stewart, and Mrs. Garrett Fawcett, who spoke, and moved a Resolution on Women's Suffrage. There too was Sister Agnes Karll who bore an invitation from the German Nurses' Association and the authorities of Cologne for the Council to hold its meeting in 1912 in that city, an invitation which was unanimously accepted, Sister Karll being elected President of the Council for the ensuing period. Fraternal Delegates on the platform also were Dr. Depage, and Miss Edith Cavell from Belgium.

The principal Guests of Honour on the platform that day, however, were the Presidents of the four National Councils of Nurses to be received into the International Council, Miss M. A. Snively (Canada), Mrs. Henny Tscherning (Denmark), Baroness Mannerheim (Finland), and Miss Tilanus (Holland). With welcoming speeches, presentation of lovely flowers, and exquisite music, the National Anthem of each country resounding through the Hall as its representative was received, a tradition of ceremonial was established which has since made the meeting at which new Councils are received the most beautiful of all the Sessions at our International gatherings.

At the Session, on the following morning, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick announced to the great gratification of the Congress a letter from the Lord Chamberlain conveying the intelligence that King Edward, then at Biarritz, had written giving special instructions that the private apartments and other parts of the Castle not usually shown to visitors

were to be open when the members of the Congress visited Windsor later in the week.

Many valuable papers were presented, and equally valuable discussions took place during the Congress. The most epoch-making was, unquestionably, that by the Hon. Albinia Brodrick, on "Morality in Relation to Health." The speaker held her audience spellbound, and when she concluded there was silence for a notable space, and then the storm of applause broke out, as her hearers expressed their appreciation of the delicacy and the courage with which she had dealt with a difficult subject. Let it be recorded to the credit of the Nursing Profession,

that this was the first occasion on which a public appeal had been made in this country for instruction on the dangers of the venereal diseases. Now such instruction is quite common, but then, although nurses came quite frequently in contact with them, and were subjected to grave danger of infection through ignorance of their nature, the idea of providing any teaching on the subject was considered unnecessary, and indeed most undesirable, by those responsible for their instruction.

Papers following on different aspects of the same subject by Miss Lavinia Dock and Miss Mary Burr were also most valuable.

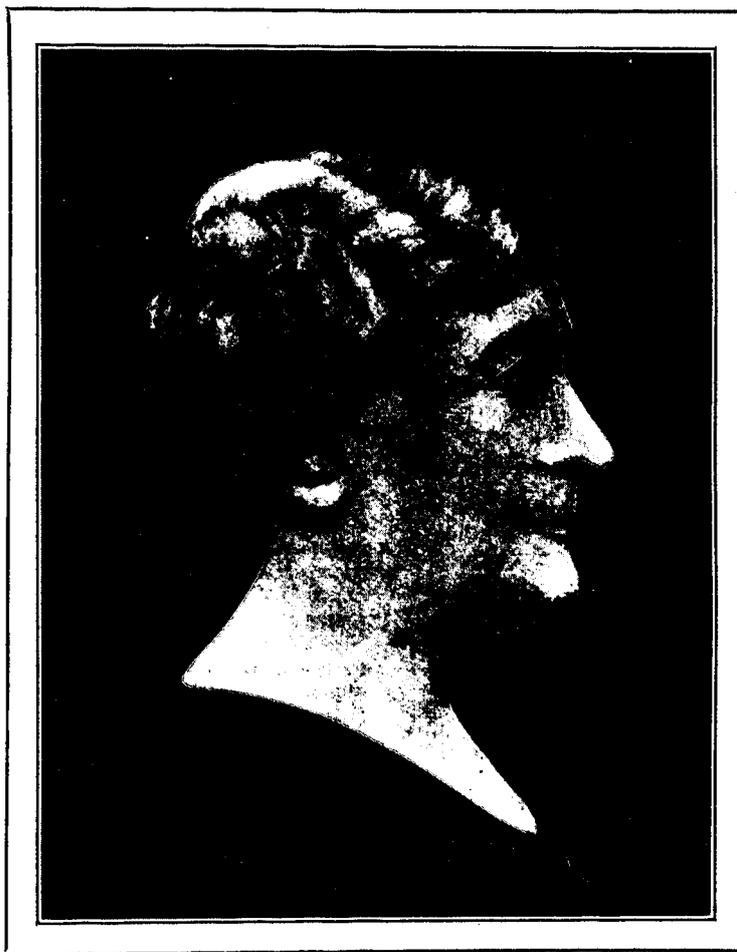
Addresses by the late Lord (then Mr.) Haldane (Secretary of State for War), and Lady Novar (Lady Helen Munro Ferguson), also received special attention.

What can be said of the many social occasions, so full of pleasure and profit? The briefest notice of a few only is possible. The civic welcome at the Mansion House by the then Lord Mayor and Lady Truscott; the Reception at beautiful Dorchester House, alas! now

superseded by a monster hotel, by Mr. Whitelaw Reid (the then American Ambassador) and Mrs. Whitelaw Reid. The afternoon spent at Windsor, when, by special permission of King Edward the Canadian Delegation laid a magnificent wreath on the Tomb of Queen Victoria in the Mausoleum at Frogmore.

## COLOGNE, 1912.

The Congress at Cologne in 1912 exceeded the eager anticipations of those who had formed a high estimate of the organising powers of the President of the International Council of Nurses—Sister Agnes Karll. Its outstanding



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