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EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK REGISTERED NURSE.

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## THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NURSES.

### THE SERVICE IN ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

The Eighth International Congress of Nurses opened on July 18th with a service in St. Paul's Cathedral at which the Archbishop of Canterbury was the preacher. Long before 9.30 a.m., the hour fixed for the service, groups of nurses of many nationalities, all wearing the Congress badge, were to be seen converging upon the Cathedral, and by the time the procession of choir, clergy and the Archbishop, his crimson train borne by two choristers, passed into the choir the nave was filled from end to end with a great congregation of Congress members, nurses from over thirty-two countries of the world combining to form a congregation unique in the history of this country or indeed of any other.

### ORDER OF SERVICE.

The service began with the words :

"Whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."

There followed the xci. Psalm, and the lesson (St. Luke IV, 31-41), the Magnificat, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and other prayers, including the petition :

"Grant, we beseech Thee, at this time, Thy especial blessing and guidance to those who are working for the ideals of the Nursing Service, and that the work of the International Council of Nurses may be the means of helping, throughout the world, those whose vocation is service to the poor and suffering."

Then came a hymn by Charles Kingsley, concluding with the verse :

"And hasten, Lord, that perfect day  
When pain and death shall cease,  
And Thy just rule shall fill the earth  
With health, and light, and peace."

Then followed the Address by the Archbishop of Canterbury, which, by the kindness of His Grace, we are able to print in full.

### THE ADDRESS OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

**This World-Wide Fellowship of Servants of Humanity.**

It is my privilege to give a most cordial welcome to this great company of Nurses who are assembled, I believe from some thirty countries, in London to consider together what further advance in knowledge, range, and skill may be made by your noble profession, or rather let me say your high vocation. It is impossible to think without emotion and thankfulness of the great advance already achieved. Less than one hundred years

ago, save among some religious communities to whose love and devotion let all honour be paid, the nursing of the sick was left to a class of women ill-qualified for their work by education, training, or character. It is only eighty-three years ago since that great woman at once masterful and tender—Florence Nightingale—moved by the sufferings of the sick and wounded in the Crimea began the noble work to which she devoted her life of raising the whole standard of nursing. It has been truly said that she raised the art of nursing from a menial employment to an honoured vocation. Our pride in her, our gratitude for her in this country are now shared by the whole world as your Congress testifies. It is difficult to realise the difference between nursing as it was and as it is, and the record of this transformation as well as of marvellous progress in medical and surgical science forms one of the noblest chapters in the history of our race. True, the blessings of skilled and devoted nursing, alike in hospital and home, have still to reach many parts of the world such as India and Africa. But the range of blessing already attained justifies our faith in progress and fills the heart with a glow of thankfulness. It is good to see against the background of human suffering and pain this worldwide Fellowship of Servants of Humanity.

For it would be right, would it not, to describe the motive which animates your Fellowship as the Honour of Humanity—the desire to heal sickness and alleviate the pain of all men without distinction of race or class or creed or colour, just because they are human and in need of help? The injunction of St. Peter "Honour all men" might well be taken as a watchword of your calling. Your work is based upon the worth and sacredness of human personality.

It is here that you are able to fulfil the declared object of your International Council—"the full development of the human being and citizen in every nurse." For all true government whatever form it may take, all education and social reform must rest upon just that foundation of the worth and claim of human personality which day by day inspires your work. Thus that work itself is an exercise of the truest citizenship.

To you humanity itself in its sickness and pain is a "noble sufferer needing help," and whenever any human being is in need of that help it is your pride and honour to be at hand to give it. Let me quote some words once spoken from this very place by a great orator, Henry Parry Liddon. He was applying them to the Church of Christ. I would dare to apply them also to every true-hearted nurse. "She stands before humanity not as a patroness but, as it might be, a loving and faithful servant who is too loyal, too enamoured

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