

Weltbund der Krankenpflegerinnen hinzuweisen und auf die Möglichkeiten, die uns durch ihn zur Verfügung stehen. Sie hat vielen von uns die Wege ins Ausland geebnet. So haben sich durch Kongresse und Besuche Verbindungen hin und her geknüpft, und es ist unser aufrichtiger Wunsch, dass diese Beziehungen sich in Zukunft vertiefen mögen.

Was die deutsche Krankenpflege anbelangt, so stehen wir mitten in der Umorganisation. Durch fünf grosse Gruppen sind unsere deutschen Schwestern heute vertreten, und jede Schwester wird in Zukunft verpflichtet sein, sich einer dieser Gruppen anzuschliessen. Aus jeder Gruppe werden zwei Schwestern die Interessen ihrer Mitglieder im "Fachausschuss für Schwesternwesen" vertreten, von dem die Reichsfrauenführerin den Vorsitz führt.

Zum Schluss richte ich an alle Schwestern die herzlichste Einladung kommen Sie zu uns nach Deutschland, um uns und unsere Arbeit und unser schönes deutsches Vaterland kennen zu lernen.

A vote of thanks to the Princess Royal for opening the Congress was then proposed by Miss B. G. Alexander, Vice-President, I.C.N., and carried by acclamation, after which Her Royal Highness was asked, and graciously consented, to sign her name in the book on the Chairman's table. She then left the Hall, while the band played "God Save the King," the audience standing.

GENERAL SESSION.

The first General Session of the Congress was then convened, the President Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, who presided, speaking as follows:—

COLLEAGUES FROM THE WORLD OVER—

Though you have already been greeted in words, at the Opening Meeting, I would like you to feel that the real greeting comes from our hearts, and is expressed in the same welcome we all accord to all you who have come to this country, the Motherland of so many gathered here—the spiritual home of those who would follow in the steps of Florence Nightingale.

We are living in stirring, but in most difficult, times. The unrest around, the altering standard of life, confuse our ideals, nay, seem to threaten our very foundations. We are seeking peace, but in a feverish chase. We live in a vortex of activity, pursuing everything in a nervous haste that militates against sane judgment and effective progress.

We seek the short cuts, the attractive ways, the prepared roads. We are shy of the rough paths; we avoid the steep climb to the hills of vision; we dread the long arduous roads that lead so slowly to success. Youth wants pleasure, variety, distraction. Life should not be a search for happiness.

Happiness comes not by seeking, but by cheerfully fulfilling the duties fallen to our lot. In the words of our late beloved King George: "The secret of life is not to do what one likes, but to try to like what one has to do."

We are faced with many and varied problems; we must meet them as they arise, and solve them in the spirit of adventure and with enlightened understanding. We cannot stand still. We must go forward. But let us be armed with knowledge, to make our progress sure. We must work in the true spirit of service. How that glorious word "Service" has been degraded in countless eyes. Yet it is borne proudly on the Royal Arms of the hereditary Prince of Wales. "Ich dien"—I serve. And it has been the watchword of all those great souls who have laboured with love for humanity.

When training has formed and disciplined the mind and will, has given skill to the hand, then we can bring forth the best fruits of our endeavours. Let us give

generously of ourselves, not counting the cost. We must take stock of ourselves, and test our true metal by the touchstone of loyalty. Are we loyal to our country, working as high-minded citizens for the welfare of all? Are we loyal to our profession—helping to build up a community of interests and world-wide co-operation? Are we loyal to our colleagues, free from carping criticism, helping those less fortunate than ourselves in a spirit of toleration, giving them sympathy and understanding? Are we loyal to ourselves, not only as nurses, but as women—seeking to follow the highest as we know it, and using our potent influence for the best issues?

But if we are to make good progress we must be united, work as an organised team, play the game of life with all the rules.

Play, unrestrained, leads nowhere.

The world is a wonderful place, with so much work to do, and such vast opportunities for doing it. Our predecessors have given so much, have left us such rich legacies. Are we to do naught but enjoy the fruits of their toil?

Nursing is an Art. The best powers of mind and heart should be given to enrich and ennoble the Art.

We are in danger of making a study of nursing, instead of an informed and skilled practice of nursing. We need both, Science and Art, but it must be applied Science and practical Art.

We have come together to discuss our individual problems. When we see them in the understanding of the problems of others, we find how similar our difficulties are, the world over. When we come to discuss them seriously, it comes back to us how much they resemble the problems we have left at home.

The object of our discussions is—that we go back to face the difficulties of our work with fresh inspiration and with a stronger and clearer vision, in the light of what we have gleaned from one another during these days.

One more thing will I say.

Do not let us be in a great hurry to make reforms. Take time. Go slowly. It may be months, it may be years, before we attain our object. But if those months and those years have within them all our concentrated effort, all our best thought, then will they be worth while, and worth passing on to the future.

May I wish you all a happy Congress.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.

The Executive Secretary, Miss Anna Schwarzenberg, then presented her Report, which put on record definite progress of the work at Headquarters. The work of the office has, to a large extent, been reorganised. The ordinary staff now consists of three full-time assistant secretaries, for the English, French and German work respectively, two of the assistants being trained nurses.

As most of the contents of this report have already been published we refrain from printing more of this interesting report owing to great pressure on our space.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.

Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., S.R.N., then presented her Report as Hon. Treasurer as follows:—

The period has been rather a difficult one owing to the fluctuations in the international exchange, and especially because of the very high rate of exchange with Switzerland. The necessity of reorganising the work in the Council's office entailed considerable expense, as there had been a heavy debt on the former issues of the *International Nursing Review*. In spite of this, the financial condition can be considered satisfactory. We had a balance at the end of the year 1936 of £1,281 12s., together with £500 City of Sheffield 3½% Redeemable Debenture Stock. This is rather less than the balance we had at the beginning

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