

A GREAT SOCIAL EVENT.

THE GENERAL SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21ST., 8 p.m.

The General Session held in the Great Hall on the evening of Wednesday, July 21st, was one round which special interest centred, for it was the meeting at which the three newly affiliated National Associations were welcomed and were introduced to the Congress Members, and, further, this year the delivery by Sir George Newman, G.B.E., K.C.B., M.D., D.C.L., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., of the first Florence Nightingale Oration was keenly anticipated. Moreover the meeting is one of the few occasions in the Congress when music gives an added charm to the proceedings, and the fine music rendered by the Band of the Royal Army Medical Corps, provided by the generosity of Miss Martin, Matron-in-Chief and the Sisters of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, by kind permission of the Officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps, conducted by Mr. H. Carotti, kept the crowded audience standing, as our National Anthem, followed by those of other nations, resounded through the Hall, much to the pleasure of the contingents of nurses from all over the world.

Punctually at 8 o'clock, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Founder of the International Council of Nurses, and Chairman for the evening, entered the Hall, accompanied by the President, Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, Sir George Newman, His Excellency the Swiss Minister, M. Charles Paravicini, and Miss E. M. Musson.

After the presentation of a lovely bouquet of pink carnations the Chairman opened the meeting, and called upon the Executive Secretary to read telegrams of greeting from Miss Annie Goodrich, U.S.A., an Hon. President of the Council, from the Danish Nurses "who stayed at home" and others.

The Chairman, who on rising to speak was warmly acclaimed, addressed the great gathering as follows:—

SPEECH FROM THE CHAIR.

Madam President and Fellow Members of Congress.

Presiding as I am at this representative and inspiring meeting of the International Council of Nurses, I would have you know how *thrilled* I am to occupy this Chair to-night, and to see around the flowering from the seed we planted in London in the year 1899. To look around fills me with a sense of *glory* because this great concourse of nurses is not here present having passed through flowery meads, but having ascended to this altitude by steep and stony paths.

We have all won victories in helping to build this great International Organisation, and if inspired with pride in so doing let us rejoice in human fashion that victory is ours. It is a poor heart which never rejoices.

When rebuked in youth for the expression of unpopular opinions an understanding friend would advise:

"Let the child be, she is only great-hearted." And is it not great-hearted that we wish our International to be. Understanding, sympathetic, kindly, and especially appreciative of the national genius and virtues of each constituent part.

At this great Congress, day by day, we are imperceptibly fulfilling the highest obligation of humanity, seeking how we may attain knowledge for the preservation and growth of beauty, and of the harmony and health of the world.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NURSES TO BE HELD IN AMERICA IN 1941.

The Chairman then announced that the invitation extended by the American Nurses' Association to the International Council of Nurses to hold the Congress in 1941 in the United States of America had been accepted by the Grand Council, an announcement which was received with long and loud applause.

THE HON. OFFICERS FOR THE NEXT QUADRENNIAL PERIOD.

The Chairman then announced the names of the Officers elected for the next Quadrennial Period as follows:—

President: Miss Effie Taylor, Dean of the Yale University School of Nursing, U.S.A.

Treasurer: Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., Great Britain. "Our great financier."

First Vice-President: Miss Jean Gunn, O.B.E., Canada. "Our Law-giver."

Second Vice-President: Miss B. G. Alexander, R.R.C., South Africa.

Third Vice-President: Mlle. J. de Joannis, France.

As each officer was announced by the Chairman she stood up and was warmly applauded, the new President receiving a particularly cordial ovation.

THE NATIONAL PRESIDENTS AND ASSOCIATE NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES.

The Chairman then invited the Executive Secretary to introduce the National Presidents and Associate National Representatives, and each stood up and received a welcome as her name was called. Then came an outstanding feature of the evening, the introduction of newly-elected National Nurses' Associations.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNTRIES. AUSTRALIA.

The first country introduced was Australia. Miss Jane Bell—so long Matron of the Royal Melbourne Hospital—came up on to the platform to the strains of the National Anthem, to be received and welcomed and presented with flowers by Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, a Girl Guide standing at attention the while, bearing the national flag which she then planted in the stand on the platform.

Miss Bell said she would be singularly lacking in emotion if she were not moved by this ceremony. A flag represented the soul of a people, and she thanked the International Council of Nurses for receiving Australia with this beautiful ceremonial. It would, she said, be the constant endeavour of the Australian Nurses' Federation to maintain the high standards of the International Council of Nurses. Australia had been a long time applying for affiliation, but it was perhaps a happy coincidence that she should be received in Great Britain in this wonderful Coronation year.

SWITZERLAND.

Miss Hofmann then ascended to the platform representing Switzerland, and a similar ceremonial was gone through, Switzerland being received by Miss Susan Francis, President of the American Nurses' Association, who said that Switzerland with her magnificent mountains, giving courage and inspiration, and her valleys breathing peace, and a people reminding us of kindness and good will, was a country which any group might be proud to receive.

Miss Hofmann thanked Miss Francis for her kind words, and said how thankful the Nurses of Switzerland were to become a part of the International Council of Nurses, whose work they had watched for over twenty years.

To the National Anthem of Switzerland the flag of that country was planted.

ROUMANIA.

Mme. Costres, of Roumania, who appeared in her National costume, was received on behalf of Roumania by Mlle. de

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