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EDITORIAL.

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF NURSING EDUCATION.

Since our last issue an inspiring Meeting has been held in Chicago, U.S.A., to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the inauguration of the National League of Nursing Education, to which, as a Founder, we were honoured by a request to send a message of greeting. This request came at an opportune moment, just as we were realising the terrible depreciation of standards of nursing education in England made inevitable by the passing of the "Nurses Act, 1943," thrust through Parliament by the Minister of Health—without consultation with the organised Registered Nurses, whose rights and privileges it tramples into the dust. It is with sincere pleasure therefore that we addressed the following Message to Miss Nellie X. Hawkinson, Chairman of the Programme Committee of the National League of Nursing Education, realising the inspiration of the occasion; indeed, do not let us forget in our own de-gradation that we are only seven hours by Air from our colleagues in the United States of America, and standards of nursing attained by them to-day must react inevitably upon our work to-morrow—that is if we are to meet them on equal terms, as meet them we do all over the world, where teaching the laws of health is a primary duty to the natives of lands less progressive than those of the English-speaking peoples.

THE WORLD'S REDEMPTION. A MESSAGE OF GOOD WILL.

19, QUEEN'S GATE,
LONDON, S.W.7.
May 16th, 1943.

To MISS NELLIE X. HAWKINSON,

Chairman, Programme Committee,
National League of Nursing Education.

MY DEAR MISS HAWKINSON,

I received your gracious letter inviting me, as a founder of the National League of Nursing Education, to send a Message to the Fiftieth Anniversary of its inauguration, to be held in Chicago on June 15th, 16th and 17th next, in commemoration of this inspiring event.

It is with a deep sense of appreciation that I am happy to associate myself with this historic occasion, and I only regret that I am unable to be present to listen to the report of the unique work for the evolution of nursing efficiency which has resulted from the activities for half a century of the League, as I am unable to recall any social movement of greater value to humanity; I

heartily congratulate those privileged to promote its invaluable work.

It seems but yesterday that as the representative of Nursing on the Women's Committee of the British Royal Commission to the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893, that I had the inestimable privilege of association with the leaders of women's emancipation assembled at the Congress of Charities, Corrections and Philanthropy—Lucy Stone, Julia Ward Howe, Susan B. Anthony, May Wright Sewell, and of leading teachers of Nursing in the United States of America, whose names are now associated with the evolution of Nursing as an art and science, Isabel Hampton Robb, and Lavinia L. Dock, our great nurse historian, through whose genius for friendship our International Council of Nurses has become a living force. Through the *American Journal of Nursing*, every issue of which from its foundation is carefully filed in the archives of our British College of Nurses Ltd. in London, I have kept in touch with the evolution of nursing as promoted by the League of Nursing Education, and in many countries of the world have through the International Council of Nurses come into personal relations with the promoters of nursing evolution and efficiency throughout the world.

Thus Chicago and the blue waters of Michigan remain for ever a specially precious memory in my professional life, vividly inspired by the life's romance and attainments of the great Discoverer, Christopher Columbus, in whose honour the World's Fair in 1893 was promoted. A man of intense purpose and inflexible will, of vision and endurance, qualities to be cultivated when all that we value in life, vision, honour, sympathy, liberty, are at stake. The sad and splendid figure of the great Genoese may well be a guiding star. At this time we need the explorer's impulse, the urge towards the Unknown is imperative if we are to be privileged in helping to build new worlds after the Death Struggle of good and evil.

Thus Columbus, thinking to trace the way to the Indies, endowed the world with two continents, a domain far richer than any treasure he dreamed of finding.

But time passes, piling up the centuries, and out of that strange mixture of courage, adventure, suffering, self-sacrifice and idealism, the nations of these continents have arisen to wealth and grandeur.

In following visions inspired by dreams for the World's redemption, the nurses of these two continents may touch stars and constellations, and surely conquer worlds unknown. Let them unite for such purpose.

Very cordially yours,

ETHEL GORDON FENWICK,
Founder, The International Council of Nurses.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)