

behalf of the nurses of India, that she was sure they would heartily co-operate in the proposal just made by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

Miss Sutherland (New Zealand) also supported the proposed memorial, and said she would go back to New Zealand inspired with the spirit of internationalism. New Zealand nurses were not behind others in helping a good object.

Miss Take Hagiwara, of Japan, addressing Sister Agnes Karll, then said: "Our soul and our spirit have been refreshed by the unhymnable source of knowledge which draws us on by a magic bond far to the Star of Hope. I hardly know if I can find words or poetry that can suffice to thank our President Sister Agnes Karll. To-day, dear Sister, we are striving towards the same goal with united hearts, and may trees with sweet-scented blossoms be covered later with the noblest of fruits." Miss Hagiwara then presented Sister Karll with a laurel wreath tied with red and white ribbons, inscribed in gold.

Mrs. Watatani, another Japanese delegate, said: "It will be a never-to-be-forgotten picture of my heart that, as delegate of the Mitsui Sister of Mercy Hospital, as well as of those of the Red Cross, I was able to take part in this most interesting and instructive Congress, which closes with this splendid banquet. For all the kindness and attention of my honoured sisters, which will be stored up as treasures in my mind, I should like to express my warmest thanks. I shall share these treasures with my sisters of Japan when I go back; and so further our cause in my own country."

M. André Mesureur, *Chef du Service, Direction de l'Assistance Publique, Paris*, briefly and gracefully returned thanks on behalf of the French representatives for the courtesy extended to them. M. Mesureur attended both the Paris and the London Congresses.

The Countess van den Steen, speaking in the name of Countess Jean de Mérode, and of Dr. van Sweiten who had returned home, returned thanks for the delightful reception accorded to the members of the St. Camille School, delegated by the Belgian Government. "We rejoice," she said, "in being so completely in contact with our German friends as with our English ones three years ago. We have the same aims, the same ideals—the healing of the body, and the healing of the soul. Hand in hand, we shall go forward along the hard but comforting path in which Sister Agnes Karll leads us."

Signorina Nerina Gigliucci, after expressing the thanks of the three Italian members of the Congress for their kind reception, said they were deeply sensible of the honour of being the first of their countrywomen to assist at one of the Congresses of the International Council of Nurses, and said her inspiration was that at a not too distant date her countrywomen might be able to welcome the Council in one of the great historic halls in which Italy is so rich. She could wish it to be Florence, because there Florence Nightingale first saw the light of day, and the city had the honour to give her its name.

In proposing the toast of "our hostesses and the International Council of Nurses," Signorina Gigliucci substituted the Italian "Evviva" for the German "Hoch."

Miss Dock, who claimed that she had discovered Sister Agnes Karll, said that she could not help being thorough; it was a characteristic of the nation to which she belonged. In her own inimitable way Miss Dock then described her experience in being summoned before a magistrate in Berlin because her age, supplied at the request of the police, did not correspond with that given on a visit five years previously.

Sister Karll, in the course of the evening, read the following letter from the Hon. Albinia Brodrick:—

"It is with deep disappointment that I realise the impossibility of being amongst you all at Cologne and renewing the affectionate bonds of comradeship which have been so effectually formed between us at our earlier Congresses.

"I send my love and my greetings.

"May this Congress help you, and through you the whole world, to realise more deeply the magnificent possibilities of our profession, and strengthen you to carry on, in that broad-minded spirit of love which alone can ennoble it, that work for God and for humanity which humbly and hopefully we have ventured upon.

"My thoughts will constantly be with you during these coming days, and perhaps some of you too may spare a thought sometimes to those of us whom duty holds fast.

"We, the nurses of the world, are making the history of the world. Ours is the contribution of healing, the saving of lives, to do some great works, some lesser ones, but all to take some part in the history of their nation. Great is the trust reposed in us, great the responsibility upon us. But great also the certainty of our reward. When or where we may meet it we cannot tell—only this we know, that, silently, imperceptibly, we are forging, link by link, a mighty chain which shall some day girdle the world, and bind it in the bonds of an Universal Peace.

"There is the certain guerdon of our toil."

We have recorded the speeches made on this never-to-be-forgotten evening, but to capture and describe in words, the gaiety, the good fellowship, the friendliness with which it was characterised, from first to last, is a task almost impossible of accomplishment. As the "Hochs" resounded through the hall, and glass touched glass, few words were needed to cement friendship and good feeling between those who a short week ago had been strangers to one another. Those who were present can never forget the inspiration of the occasion.

E. G. F.

A WORD FROM MISS NIGHTINGALE, 1881.

Every year Miss Nightingale sent a letter, in her own handwriting, to the Probationers and Nurses at St. Thomas's Hospital, London. She wrote in 1881:

"We all know how much easier it is to sink to the level of the low, than to rise to the level of the high. . . . We know how soldiers were taught to fight in the old times against desperate odds, standing shoulder to shoulder and back to back. Let us each and all, realising the importance of our influence on others, stand shoulder to shoulder and not alone in the good cause."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)