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## EDITORIAL.

### INTERNATIONAL AMBITIONS.

H.R.H. The Princess Elizabeth, Heir Presumptive to the Throne, broadcast a vow of dedication to the peoples of the Great Imperial Family, on the occasion of her 21st birthday, which was celebrated with all pomp and ceremony in Cape Town, South Africa. In order to carry out her Resolution, she invited every person in the Empire to join with her and thus support her in her tremendous task. It would be a grand thing if all nurses of the world could join our charming Princess in her vow of service and, in addition to applying it to the needs of her own particular country, to make it generally for the sick peoples of the whole world.

"I declare before you all, that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to the sick and suffering of all nations, so much as lies in my power."

And so, to the International Congress of Nurses, from which we hope for so much.

May is usually a glorious month when all Nature dons her most lovely garb and by every trick and sleight of hand delights the eye of man and beast. Azure skies, gentle breezes, sweet singing birds, and flamboyant flowers, add to the cup of happiness of mortal man. It is, therefore, with every hope of fulfilment that we wish God-speed to those British nurses who have sailed across the mighty Atlantic or flown in the dizzy blue heights above the waters to forgather in Atlantic City, U.S.A., and there to endeavour to direct the fortunes of

countless generations of nurses yet to come, along secure and serene paths, during their earthly span of duty.

Judging by the interesting programme of discussions, papers and social events, the travellers appear to be in for a most thrilling six-day session at the Congress. There is no doubt that much useful work will be done and

that new entrants to the International will greatly benefit by the seasoned experience of older countries, and likewise nurses from these older countries will come away with fresh ideas and new hopes.

Some cure will, we hope, be found for that world-wide burden in the Profession—the shortage of nurses—for we now know that every civilised country is similarly afflicted. Perhaps newer and better methods of recruitment will be discovered and how to keep young students in the Profession once they have been successfully gathered in. Progress will be made in methods of bedside nursing and in securing the best possible conditions for the sick population of all countries. As the birth-rate in the world shows a marked upward curve, and the numbers of midwives are rapidly declining, the problems of ante-natal and post-natal care need much hammering out. Fortunately, there will be experts at the Congress to grapple with all these matters.

There are other important aspects to be dealt with at this tremendously important gathering. It is a wonderful opportunity for sowing seeds of universal love. Within recent years hate has been disseminated far and wide amongst the nations with the most evil and horrible results, that it is now surely time love took the



A CHARMING PORTRAIT STUDY OF "OUR PRINCESS" ON HER 21st BIRTHDAY.

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