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EDITORIAL.

The Ninth Quadrennial International Congress of Nurses has now passed into history. It was a tremendous success, and our generous, kindly hostesses, the American Nurses, are to be congratulated on their most noble efforts and tremendous tasks which achieved such merit and distinction.

Those of us who were privileged to be present will not lightly forget the friendly invasion of Atlantic City, U.S.A., during May 9th and 10th, 1947, by six thousand, five hundred and ninety-two nurses from all parts of the world, representing most of the races of mankind, and all vastly concerned about the same two problems, the raising of the standard of Nursing for the benefit of their patients, and of the crippling shortage of Nurses in their own countries. The similarity of working conditions affecting each nation was most revealing, and, to many of us, the world shrank greatly in proportions and appeared to be a very small place indeed.

Atlantic City itself contributed in no small measure to the happiness of the conventioners. It is a delectable little Paradise, and most inspiring to the imagination. Its sands are of silver-gold and the sea is deep blue and the waves break gently and sweetly on its shores. Arriving, as we did, at night, it looked like a fairyland, its famous lengthy Broadwalk was lit by myriads of twinkling multi-coloured lights, backed by the brightly-lighted, most luxurious sky-scraper hotels. We completely lost our hearts to Atlantic City, and when we left it, it was with most tender regret, like the parting of lovers.

The great majority of us met together for the first time on Sunday, May 11th, at 5.0 o'clock in the afternoon. The occasion was an International Memorial Service for Ethel Gordon Fenwick, the late historic Founder of the International Council of Nurses. It was held in the magnificent Ballroom of the Convention Hall and it was preceded by appropriate music from the great organ. The Rev. George W. Laurence, D.D., presided, and the following glowing "In Memoriam" tribute was read beautifully by the International President, Miss Effie J. Taylor:

ETHEL GORDON FENWICK.

Ten years ago, the Eighth Quadrennial Congress of the International Council of Nurses assembled in London and, in her capacity as President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, whose memory we honour to-day, acted as hostess to the visiting members. As the Founder of the International Council of Nurses, she also presided over the solemn and beautiful ceremony which marked the reception into full membership of several national

nursing organisations which had recently become eligible for that high privilege.

Although she had already attained the great age of four-score years, her regal appearance and commanding presence added to the splendour and dignity of an unforgettable occasion. Standing before the vast assemblage in the Great Hall, she uttered these inspiring words: "To look around me, fills me with a sense of glory because this great concourse of Nurses is not present as having passed through flowery meads, but as having ascended to this altitude by steep and stony paths." Having fulfilled the meaning of her own words, she has herself passed on to even greater heights, and we shall miss her from among us:

Had Mrs. Bedford Fenwick lived, she would have been offered the following citation at the present Congress:

"This citation is addressed to Ethel Gordon Fenwick by the International Council of Nurses in grateful recognition of unique and life-long contribution to the advancement of the nursing profession throughout the world. Her clarity of vision and her original and fearless quality of mind led her to seek and to make plain a pathway into the future along which nurses of every race and tongue might go forward in unity toward a common goal. Her unshakable determination that the nursing profession should be free to control its own destiny and manage its own affairs inspired her to found and stoutly to defend the International Council of Nurses, which, through the years, has been and still is a rallying point wherever nurses strive to attain the liberty and independence which are justly their due.

"As a pioneer in the field of nursing journalism and the editor for many years of 'The British Journal of Nursing,' her capacity for lucid and forthright statement has never been surpassed. Her penetrating wit and scathing invective were potent weapons in her implacable struggle against ignorance and prejudice. Her sturdy defence of professional standards of conduct and of the salutary discipline upon which they are based never faltered.

"Loyal throughout her long and brilliant career to the honourable traditions of her native land, she will always remain an example of the steadfastness of mind and spirit which are the pride and glory of the British people. The International Council of Nurses pays affectionate homage to its gallant, farsighted and indomitable Founder."

Thus, America pays honour where honour is due, and we learn that the citation is illuminated and is to be presented to Mrs. Fenwick's family in London. We are, indeed, truly grateful.

Again, during the busy week which followed, America paid high tribute to Ethel Gordon Fenwick, this time through the gracious words of the adorable little Miss Lavinia L. Dock. Standing at the microphone in order to state her thanks for a beautiful citation, which she herself had received, this ninety-year-old "little lovely lavender Lady" spoke to a crowded audience of her esteem and affection for Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. The two had had much in common and had been great comrades, and there was no doubting the affection and loyalty which existed between them. Miss Dock provided one

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