

of the greatest moments in a great week. We learn that when she was invited to attend Atlantic City Congress in person, to receive the citation so justly and greatly merited, she replied wittily: "They only want to see me because I'm a genuine antique!" What an antique!! Frail, artistic, humorous and wilful, witty and graceful, forceful and utterly independent of spirit. Thank you, Miss Dock, for the happy half-hour which your presence gave to us and our best wishes go out to you.

We shall forever remember the kindness and courtesy which was showered upon us during our brief stay in America, and particularly the hospitality which we received from the Directors of Nurses of the various Hospitals of the States. Ever mindful of the "inner man," like true hostesses, our American colleagues did not wish their English guests to depart from the land of plenty, feeling hungry; so, to our great surprise and pleasure, we each found an intriguing parcel in our stateroom on our return voyage on the *Queen Elizabeth*! Whilst thanking the New York Hospitality Committee for this extra act of kindness, we also thank America in general for a wonderfully pleasurable "business-cum-holiday" stay, under such ideally happy circumstances. We await the Tenth Quadrennial International Congress of Nurses, which will be held in Stockholm in 1949, with intense anticipation, whilst commiserating with our Swedish colleagues on the tremendous tasks which lie before them. The new International President, Miss Gerda Höjer, of Sweden, has a busy two years ahead of her, and we wish her a happy and fruitful term of office.

### NEW OFFICERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Six thousand nurses from 32 nations, representing more than 250,000 members, met for the first post-war congress of the International Council of Nurses in Atlantic City, N.J., May 11 to 16, 1947.

The American Nurses' Association, largest member association, was in charge of arrangements and hospitality.

One hundred official delegates and officers, constituting the Grand Council, met in Washington, D.C., the preceding week for transaction of official business.

The next congress will be held in Sweden in June, 1949, in observance of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the I.C.N., believed to be the oldest international organisation of professional workers.

Effie J. Taylor, who has been President since the last meeting, in 1937, presided at the Grand Council and congress meetings. New officers elected were:—

President, Miss Gerda Höjer, Stockholm, Sweden, President, Swedish Nurses' Association; 1st Vice-President, Mary I. Lambie, Director, Division of Nursing, New Zealand Health Department, Wellington, New Zealand; 2nd Vice-President, Katharine J. Densford, President, American Nurses' Association, and Director, School of Nursing, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; 3rd Vice-President, Grace M. Fairley, formerly Director of Nurses, Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver, B.C., Canada; and Treasurer, Miss G. E. Davies, London, England, formerly Registrar, General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

### NINTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NURSES. ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., U.S.A. MAY 11th-16th, 1947.

Monday, May 12th, 1947, dawned clear and bright, and by 9 a.m. six thousand nurses were gaily wending their way towards the largest Convention Hall in the world, for the opening session of the Ninth International Congress, in Atlantic City, U.S.A. The great organ in the main hall was playing inspiring music and everywhere one sensed a tremendous feeling of exhilaration and expectancy.

By 10 a.m. a truly remarkable scene was witnessed by the gathering together of nurses from 33 different countries of the world. The platform for the delegates was beautifully decorated with pink hydrangeas, ferns and evergreens, and the centre-piece was an oil painting of Florence Nightingale, vividly portrayed against a sinister, yet colourful, background of war. Around the portrait the flags of the different nations were arranged. The great moment arrived as the procession of the delegates on to the platform commenced, and after the rendering of the American National Anthem, Miss Effie J. Taylor, International President, declared the Ninth International Congress well and truly in session.

After prayers for deceased members had been read, Miss Taylor then read the following letter from President Truman at the White House, Washington, D.C.:—

May 8th, 1947.

My Dear Miss Taylor,

Nurses of the United States, like those of our Allies, worked unstintingly in the service of their country during the war in providing care for the disabled. They shared the hardships of combat, asking no reward except the knowledge that their services enabled others to live.

To-day, the need for nurses is no less than during the war years; shattered bodies and minds lie in the wake of the most destructive war in history. The sick must be nursed back to health.

All of us who are engaged in building a lasting peace recognise that human suffering has no place in a peaceful world. If the fruits of peace are to be enjoyed by any, they must be enjoyed by all. By convening here, learning of the progress each nation is making and applying that knowledge on your return, you and your colleagues will become a real force in making the world a better place in which to live.

Please accept my best wishes for your continued success.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Harry S. Truman.

Miss Taylor reminded us that May 12th was the 127th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth: we think it was very clever of the American Nurses to choose this date for the ceremonious opening of the Congress. Miss Taylor then welcomed the distinguished guests from the U.S. Government, learned professions and various world organisations. Unfortunately, the Mayor of Atlantic City was unable to be present. He was ill in bed, and his deputy, Mr. Dobson, whilst officially handing over the key of Atlantic City to Miss Taylor, humorously remarked that, as the Mayor could not come to the Nurses, perhaps the Nurses might go to the Mayor!

Commissioner Bates, in his speech of welcome, remarked that as there were so many nurses present in Atlantic City that week, many patients would not have their temperatures read. He mentioned also the great need for Nurses in the State of New Jersey.

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