

## NURSES' ORGANIZATIONS.

### THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Members of the Board of Directors of the International Council of Nurses have received an interesting communication from the Secretary, Miss C. Reimann, from which we quote the following items for the benefit of the members of the National Council of Great Britain.

"DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,

The object of this letter is to inform the Members of the Board of Directors about certain developments which have taken place since our Interim Conference and to ask for their opinion in regard to one or two problems which have arisen.

"We are now very comfortably established in our new offices which, in all directions, fully come up to expectations. We are planning to have a few photographs of Headquarters reproduced in the January issue of 'The I.C.N.'

"With the money collected upon the return journey from Leysin, July 31st, a silver cigar and cigarette box with inscription was bought, for the price of 230 francs, and presented to Dr. Rollier. The purchase was made after consulting Madame Rollier and with the kind assistance of Mademoiselle Odier, and we have received an exceedingly nice letter from Dr. Rollier expressing his appreciation of the gift and his great pleasure at having had the opportunity of meeting so many nurses from various countries.

"The problems regarding which we should like to have, as soon as possible, the opinion of the Board of Directors are as follows:—

#### A. DATE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MEETING AND CONGRESS IN MONTREAL.

"On September 19th the Preliminary Conference on an International Hospital Congress took place in Paris (see minutes of last meeting of Board of Directors, pages 22 and 37). The Conference was attended by Mademoiselle Chaptal and myself; Mademoiselle de Joannis was unfortunately prevented from attending. A copy of the minutes of the meeting is enclosed with this letter.

"The date of the International Hospital Congress was first fixed for the month of May, 1929, but, on the proposal of the representatives of the International Council of Nurses, it was postponed. Representatives of the American Hospital Association urged, however, that the Congress should not be postponed to a date later than the beginning of June, because if it were found convenient to hold it in Atlantic City, with its splendid facilities for exhibition purposes, the latter part of the summer would be too warm and hotels overcrowded with people on vacation.

"Nursing subjects to be taken up for discussion at this—the first—International Hospital Congress, will be referred to the International Council of Nurses. It is therefore to be expected that members of our various national organisations will wish to attend.

"The date for our Montreal Congress which was suggested by the Canadian Nurses' Association, when extending the invitation last summer (see minutes, pages 20 and 21), was the end of June or during July. Mademoiselle Chaptal and others suggested that the Congress should take place between July 25th and August 25th, this being considered the most convenient time for the French and German-speaking nurses in Europe. It was finally decided that Mademoiselle Chaptal's proposal should be adopted, but no actual date was fixed.

"I have corresponded with Miss Gage, our President, the Canadian Nurses' Association and Mademoiselle Chaptal as to their views regarding the advisability of holding our Congress in Montreal earlier in the summer, as, for instance, during the last week in June or the first week in July, in

order to enable nurses to attend both Congresses if they wish to do so.

"In reply to my letter Miss Gage writes: 'An earlier date might be better for the nurses from the Philippines, whose vacations come in May. Japan, China, Korea could probably arrange that, for one year, delegates could leave schools early—I think on this point Europe will be the deciding factor.' From Canada I have received the following: 'In the opinion of the Executive of the Canadian Nurses' Association it is considered that the date decided upon at the meeting of the Board of Directors at the Interim Conference in Geneva, 1927, is preferable, but our Executive Committee wish the International Council of Nurses to know that they are quite willing to consider a change of date to one which might be more suitable to European nurses and organisations.' Mademoiselle Chaptal writes: 'If it is to be more convenient to everybody I will say yes to having the I.C.N. meet the end of June in Canada.'

"Would you kindly let International Headquarters know, at your earliest convenience, whether, in your opinion, it would be preferable for the Congress in Montreal to take place between July 25th and August 25th (the definite date to be decided by the Canadian nurses) or for the Congress to take place the last week in June or the first week in July in order to give those attending it (especially nurses from countries other than Canada and the U.S.A.) the opportunity of being present at the International Hospital Conference.

#### B. COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS.

"At the Meeting of the Board of Directors, held in Geneva, Miss Shaw was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, in accordance with our Constitution, which states: 'the Chairman of the Arrangements Committee shall be the President of the National Association of the country in which the Congress is to be held.'

"At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Canadian Nurses' Association, held on October 27th, it was decided to recommend to the International Council of Nurses that Miss Mabel F. Hersey, Superintendent of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, become Acting Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, and that Miss Mabel K. Holt of the Montreal General Hospital, be appointed to fill the vacancy created on this Committee by the appointment of Miss Hersey as Acting Chairman, until a new President of the Canadian Nurses' Association is elected at the Biennial General Meeting of the Association which will take place in June, 1928.

"Will you kindly inform International Headquarters if you have any comments to make regarding this arrangement."

#### Is Change of Date for Meeting of the International Council of Nurses Desirable?

Miss H. L. Pearse, Hon. Secretary, will be obliged if the affiliated organisations in our National Council will express an opinion on the question of change of date from July 25th to August 25th, 1929, as agreed by the Board of Directors of the International Council at Geneva, to a date at the end of June, 1929, as suggested by Miss Reimann, so that those desiring to do so can attend the proposed International Hospital Congress to be held in the United States in June, 1929.

The Meetings of the International Council of Nurses have usually taken place towards the end of July as most convenient for Nursing Schools, and it is very improbable that prominent members of our National Council would be free in the month of June or have time to attend the two Congresses.

An expression of opinion is invited as soon as convenient, addressed to Miss H. L. Pearse, Hon. Secretary,

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