

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Headquarters:
51, Palace Street, London, S.W.1.
December 28th, 1938.

Mrs. Gordon Bedford Fenwick,

President, National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,—Allow me to thank you very much for your kindness in sending the crate containing Miss Lavinia Dock's illuminated address. I regret that my thanks are somewhat belated owing to the Christmas rush of work.

I feel that Miss Dock's address is a valuable addition to our collection of treasures at Headquarters, and I hope that you will come along some day to see how well it looks hanging upon our walls. I am also writing to Miss Dock to express our appreciation of her gift.

I do hope you have enjoyed the Christmas festival, and that the year 1939 will bring you all happiness.

With kindest regards,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

ANNA SCHWARZENBERG.
Executive Secretary.

The Executive Secretary goes to the United States.

Miss Anna Schwarzenberg sailed in the *Britannic* on January 5th for a month's business in the United States, where she will meet the President of the I.C.N. and members of the American Nurses' Association, having in hand the organisation of the Meeting of the International Council of Nurses in 1941. The decision of the place of meeting will be announced at an early date. Washington and Atlantic City are favoured.

MAGYAR APOLONOK SZOVETSEGE.

The Baroness Maria Fiath (President of the Hungarian Association of Nurses) is organising a National Congress of Nurses in Budapest in the Spring. The result it is desired to attain is the State recognition of the Nursing Profession in Hungary, as at present there are no special laws, or State recommendations, relating to Nursing. The President is desirous of obtaining rules and regulations for nurses from different countries, laws or State recommendations relating to nursing, social position of nurses, State registration, and State examination. All the information from other countries will be a great help to our Hungarian colleagues. Our General Nursing Council will be willing, no doubt, to supply this information.

AN INTERESTING APPOINTMENT.

Miss Virginia Dunbar has been appointed Associate Director of the American Red Cross Nursing Service. *The Pacific Coast Journal of Nursing*, which makes the announcement, says that it does so with mingled gladness and sorrow, gladness at the honour bestowed upon her, and sorrow for the loss in the State of California of an educator of merit at the School of Nursing of the University of California, and with the California League of Nursing Education.

Miss Dunbar is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Nursing, with preparatory training at Mount Holyoke College. She received the Red Cross Scholarship for study at Bedford College, University of London, in 1935 and was there for a year as a student of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

While at Englewood Hospital, New Jersey, she co-operated with the Department of Nursing Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, in the giving of courses for nurses and was a popular instructor.

THE NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

We welcome the gift of the nurses' very own journals, foreign exchanges, and specially copies of those official organs, owned and edited by nurses' organisations. Alas! not always have we the time to study them thoroughly, but without exception they reflect steady good sense and high professional ideals. Naturally, with only one or two issues a year, it is inevitable that their interest is centred in the spheres in which their members live and have their being.

Just to hand have come the *Nightingale Fellowship Journal* and the *London Hospital League of Nurses' Review*.

The frontispiece of both journals contain full-page portraits of the ladies recently appointed, respectively, Matron of the St. Thomas' Hospital (Miss G. V. Hillyers, Dipl. Nursing, University of London, and President of the Fellowship), and of Miss Mabel Reynolds (Matron of the London Hospital, Acting President of the London Hospital League of Nurses).

Miss Hillyers, in her letter to "Dear Friends and Fellow Nightingales," realises as new President it is her privilege to send Christmas greetings and to "wish you well in your work and in your individual lives in the coming year." "At Christmas time it is natural that we look back on the past as well as look forward to the future; the genius of our Foundress belongs to both. Her personality is as vivid and arresting to-day as it was in the last century. We still have our ideal of the modern nurse in Sir George Newman's description of Miss Nightingale: '... She was a woman of sound and practical common sense, compassionate and tender-hearted, diligent, loyal, self-renouncing because self-dedicated, with a genius for administrative organisation, possessing a high sense of public duty and statesmanship, and with a soul anchored in the inexhaustible and enduring verities of her religious faith and her spiritual experience—still the greatest power on earth to move the minds and hearts of men and women.'"

Miss Hillyers writes: "May I remind you that our strength lies in our Fellowship; through it we can speak nationally and internationally and say that we want 'rightness' fulfilled in our profession, ill-health prevented, and the care of the sick perfected."

Miss Hillyers tells of the appointment of Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, D.B.E., R.R.C., as Founder of the Fellowship (following the loyal example of the premier League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses), in thus retaining as Founder the late Miss Isla Stewart of blessed memory, and of the beautifully designed book with dedication and gift of £800 presented to Dame Alicia upon her resignation as the Head of the Nightingale Training School, with which she has acquired a motor car. We are told that Riddell House has claimed the affection of the Nursing Staff. "The joys of the first summer spent in Riddell House will never be forgotten—the sun-bathing on the roof-garden after a dip in the swimming bath was an unending attraction."

Thanks is expressed to all who volunteered so readily during the national emergency and indeed the preparations made during the momentous week of the Crisis for the removal and nursing of the patients were extensive and thorough. The need for nurses was great and might have constituted a grave cause for anxiety had not the daily offers received from Nightingale Nurses, old and young, enabled the need to be met. The *Review* contains a vast amount of information of special interest to members of the Fellowship and to their professional colleagues throughout the world, where progress and achievement in nursing is of international value.

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