

member countries an abstract of this letter as soon as it can be prepared and will ask them for their opinion. . . . Miss Stimson and Mrs. Scott have been so generous with their time, advice, and co-operation, and the American Nurses' Association will stand back of us.

"Miss Fairley and the Canadian Nurses' Association have been very helpful and have signified their willingness to help to carry us financially, or otherwise, if we may need to call upon them. Truly we have an International family, and the part on this side of the water will try to do its best until we can all be united again in loyalty and peace."

FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE PRESIDENT.

"I will not attempt to repeat what was set forth in the former communications. The purpose of this letter, and others which follow, is to help us keep in touch with all of our member Associations, and to acquaint each National President, and through her the vast membership of the I.C.N. with what this office is attempting to do. We hope that every member association will realise that only with its help and advice will the Headquarters' office be able to function usefully.

Temporary Headquarters.

"As stated in our previous letter the office is established in *New Haven, Connecticut, U.S.A.*, and the President's address, 310, *Cedar Street*, is the official address. The working office, however, is situated in one of the rooms of Miss Banwarth's apartment, within ten minutes' walk from my office. A very pleasant room houses the desk, files and documents, and Miss Banwarth has been exceedingly busy in getting things organised, and in taking care of all current correspondence. A complete file of activities will be kept there in order that the continuity of the work of the I.C.N. may be maintained during this difficult period. We wish that you could drop in and have a cup of tea in the pleasant living-room adjoining the office. This has been made attractive, and we hope to welcome our International visitors whenever they pass this way.

Temporary Plan for Financing Headquarters.

"The American Nurses' Association has forwarded to us enough money to cover the expenses of the Temporary Headquarters until such time as its Board can make more permanent arrangements through the deposit of dues for the year 1940 in a special account upon which the I.C.N. President may draw for essential needs. Plans have been worked out to keep the Treasurer informed of all expenditures and a system of book-keeping has been set up to safeguard the financial interests of the Council.

"We trust that you will keep in mind that the office is prepared now to give whatever service is required. Any suggestions you would like to transfer will be accepted with gratitude. A pamphlet or a letter with reports will go out from time to time to the member organisations and we beg of you to reply whenever possible to our communications informing us what you desire that we shall do. A short letter once in a while to keep us informed of what your national organisation is doing, will also stimulate us and will help us to plan the international program more effectively and intelligently.

Shall the Congress be held in 1941 ?

"And now we come to the last point in this letter, which is the Congress of 1941. The question which the American Nurses' Association must decide by January 20, 1940, is whether or not we believe it possible or wise to hold a Congress in 1941. As far as America is concerned a Congress could be held, but with the situation so demanding in many of our member countries, and with the difficulty of transportation it appears unlikely that many of our members, from other continents than the Americas, could participate.

Reply by Cable or Air Mail.

"Will you kindly send us your opinion by *cable* or *air mail* on receipt of this letter? If it would seem wise to you to postpone the Congress until 1942 and reconsider the matter again at the end of 1940 or beginning of 1941, will you reply accordingly? The American Nurses' Association should have one year at least and longer if possible to make plans for so large a Congress as we hope will assemble in America."

REPLY FROM THE PRESIDENT, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

We have communicated with Miss Effie J. Taylor, President, I.C.N., that in our opinion it would be wise to postpone the Congress until 1942, when it may be hoped it will be possible for delegates from Europe to attend.

E. G. F.

GIFTS TO ALL THE FORCES.

A central organisation has been set up, under the patronage of the King and Queen, to receive gifts and comforts for the fighting Forces as a whole from donors who do not wish to confine their contributions to any particular Service.

Communications about the central organisation should be addressed to Sir Alan Hutchings, Director-General of Voluntary Organisations, Berkeley Square House, W.1.

HOSPITALS AND THE CIVILIAN SICK.

As there still appeared to be some misapprehension on the part of certain hospitals about the admission of ordinary sick to beds which have been made available for casualties, the Minister of Health has taken further steps to make it generally known amongst the hospitals that patients whose medical condition necessitates in-patient treatment should be immediately admitted. This "reflux" into the normal hospital accommodation was always provided for in the Ministry's scheme. To meet it new beds are continually being opened up in hospitals in various parts of the country, so that on balance the number of beds necessary to be held in reserve for casualties should not be seriously diminished. Figures of the beds in reserve for casualties received in the Ministry each day from the regional Hospital Officers show that this is in fact taking place. The number of beds in reserve for casualties remains practically stationary. In other words, beds equivalent to the new beds being provided are being re-absorbed by ordinary civilian cases. Thus, more and more beds are now being used for the treatment of the ordinary sick.

Out-patient departments are continuing to function and are being re-opened at a number of hospitals where they had been temporarily closed.

THE PASSING BELL.

We regret to announce the death, on December 25th, 1939, of Miss M. B. Salton, Matron of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, which post she had held since 1933. Miss Salton was trained at the Leeds General Infirmary, and returned there in 1927 as Assistant Matron; she also held posts as Ward Sister at the Royal Salop Infirmary, and senior Sister Tutor at the Royal Infirmary, Newcastle; and was a member of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain as President of the St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, Nurses' League, in which she took a warm personal interest.

At the funeral, which took place at Mill Hill on December 28th, after a Service in the Hospital Chapel, there were many representatives from branches of work in which she was interested.

£600,000 FOR RED CROSS.

The Red Cross appeal campaign in Canada, headed by Lord Tweedsmuir, the Governor-General, for £600,000, was over-subscribed in four days.

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