

agreed at the meeting that this information should be circulated to the Affiliated Associations of the National Council of Nurses, that early thought could be given to the matter. The information is as follows:—

#### Dates of the Congress.

The Congress will open on 13th July, 1953, and will probably last for five days. Meetings of the Board of Directors and Grand Council of the I.C.N. will be held the previous week.

#### Place of the Meetings.

All meetings will be held in Rio de Janeiro.

#### Governing Factor with Regard to the Number of Delegates able to Attend from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The number of *official* delegates to the Congress of the I.C.N. is unchanged. These number five in all, i.e., The President of the National Council of Nurses, together with four delegates. Nominations for the four delegates are submitted by the Affiliated Associations and appointed by the Grand Council of the National Council.

At the Executive Committee meeting of the National Council held in April, it was recommended that every effort should be made to send the full number of delegates (five) and the Finance Committee will consider this recommendation in the near future.

#### Currency Control.

Owing to the fact that Brazil is a hard currency country, *the basic tourist currency allowance does not apply*. The National Council of Nurses has, therefore, consulted officials of the Bank of England with a view to obtaining special currency concessions. The latest official ruling received from the Bank of England is that if the Bank of England's administrative practice remains unchanged they will authorise the issue of special currency allotments for an officially appointed delegation not exceeding 20 persons in all, attending the meetings in Rio de Janeiro. This ruling means that if there is no change in the situation by next year, only *fifteen* other members of the National Council of Nurses will be able to attend the Congress from Great Britain, other than the official delegates, which is a very different picture from the Congress in Stockholm, when the National Council arranged for 650 of its members to attend.

The Executive Committee wish to know which of the member associations are in a position to make a firm nomination with an assured financial backing. The final date for nominations to be received is 30th September, 1952, and if more than 15 applications are made, a ballot will be taken.

If there are any members of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland residing outside the sterling area (where the currency control does not apply) who wish to attend the Congress, their application should be made to the National Council of Nurses through their Affiliated Association. These members will be over and above the number sanctioned by the Bank of England.

The Bank of England further states that they would, subject to the ruling already given, be prepared to grant currency at the rate of £7 per day for the period of the

Conference, with an additional £5 per day for the unavoidable days of "stop over" before and after the Conference.

#### Travel.

Enquiries have been made with regard to the cost of travel, from several travel agents and it is learned that:—

ROYAL MAIL LINES present charge is:—

Medium First-Class ..	£370 for the round trip
Medium Cabin-Class ..	£240 for the round trip

BLUE STAR LINES present charge is:—

(First-Class vessels—all cabins with private bathrooms)	
Medium cabin .. .. .	£296 for the round trip

By AIR

The return LONDON/RIO DE JANEIRO fare is £371.

From a Danish travel agent, co-operating with the Danish Council of Nurses, more favourable terms have been quoted if group travel can be arranged, this is subject to confirmation. The group travel would include the delegates from other European countries attending the Congress, or consideration might be given to a group of 20 persons from one country.

## The British College of Nurses, Ltd.

FELLOWS AND MEMBERS of the College will be delighted to learn that on Saturday, August 9th, some fifty members of the London Appreciation Society and the London Circle, shepherded by Mr. H. L. Bryant Peers, secretary, visited the History section of the British College of Nurses, Ltd.

We were extremely happy to show the many relics and original letters of historic data, and to relate something of the story of our great pioneers and outstanding personalities in the nursing profession—of course Florence Nightingale and Ethel Gordon Fenwick being the highlights.

The keen interest shown by our delighted guests in this wide field of nursing history, is most refreshing. We are most grateful to Mr. Bryant Peers who in his valuable activities is helping to acquaint those beyond our profession of its remarkable history.

#### A Link with the Past.

We have pleasure in publishing this part of a letter from an early pioneer—Mrs. E. Wates:—

"Having lived through, and taken my tiny part in the movement outlined in your 'Editorial' for July, I find it immensely interesting.

"I was admitted to the Matrons' Council in January, 1889. Attended the early meetings re State Registration (*heard Mrs. May Wright Sewall for the International*), was Secretary and *Treasurer* for S.B.H. Nurses League, 1902-5. Attended all those meetings at the Mansion House re the formation of the Territorial Nursing Service as Miss Stewart's secretary, and was secretary for the First City Hospital Territorials, and mobilized the staff when war came. I have many of her letters when she was really too ill—but with courage high. Turning over my scrap book of those adventurous days of work and sacrifice, I marvel still at the strength and genius and persistence of those leaders, Mrs. Fenwick, Miss Stewart, Miss Breay. I am humbled and proud to have known them. Of course I am with you in keeping their memory green. I hope to remain a F.B.C.N. to the end of my days.

"It is 52 years nearly since I gave up my post as matron of Lewisham Infirmary, and I loved my work. But at 87, I look back—and I look forward as old ladies have always done, and I say the same prayer for all nurses."

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