

International Council of Nurses.

WE READ WITH INTEREST the Code of Nursing Ethics adopted by the Grand Council of the International Council of Nurses in Brazil in July, 1953, which we gather is the result of the Questionnaire circulated to affiliated members of the I.C.N., and which was in the original design created by the Founder of the International Council of Nurses so long ago as 1899.

International Code of Nursing Ethics.

Professional nurses minister to the sick, assume responsibility for creating a physical, social and spiritual environment which will be conducive to recovery, and stress the prevention of illness and promotion of health by teaching and example. They render health service to the individual, the family, and the community and co-ordinate their services with members of other health professions.

Service to mankind is the primary function of nurses and the reason for the existence of the nursing profession. Need for nursing service is universal. Professional nursing service is therefore unrestricted by considerations of nationality, race, creed, colour, politics or social status.

Inherent in the code is the fundamental concept that the nurse believes in the essential freedom of mankind and in the preservation of human life.

The profession recognises that an international code cannot cover in detail all the activities and relationships of nurses, some of which are conditioned by personal philosophies and beliefs.

1. The fundamental responsibility of the nurse is three-fold: to conserve life, to alleviate suffering and to promote health.
2. The nurse must maintain at all times the highest standards of nursing care and of professional conduct.
3. The nurse must not only be well prepared to practise but must maintain her knowledge and skill at a consistently high level.
4. The religious beliefs of a patient must be respected.
5. Nurses hold in confidence all personal information entrusted to them.
6. A nurse recognises not only the responsibilities but the limitations of her or his professional functions; recommends or gives medical treatment without medical orders only in emergencies and reports such action to a physician at the earliest possible moment.
7. The nurse is under an obligation to carry out the physician's orders intelligently and loyally and to refuse to participate in unethical procedures.
8. The nurse sustains confidence in the physician and other members of the health team; incompetence or unethical conduct of associates should be exposed but only to the proper authority.
9. A nurse is entitled to just remuneration and accepts only such compensation as the contract, actual or implied provides.
10. Nurses do not permit their names to be used in connection with the advertisement of products or with any other forms of self advertisement.
11. The nurse co-operates with and maintains harmonious relationships with members of other professions and with her or his nursing colleagues.
12. The nurse in private life adheres to standards of personal ethics which reflect credit upon the profession.
13. In personal conduct nurses should not knowingly disregard the accepted patterns of behaviour of the community in which they live and work.
14. A nurse should participate and share responsibility with other citizens and other health professions in promoting efforts to meet the health needs of the public—local, state, national and international.

The Infectious Hospitals Matrons' and Nurses' Association

A GENERAL MEETING of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' and Nurses' Association was held, by the kind permission of the Management and Miss A. A. Ward, the Matron, at Neasden Hospital, Brentfield Road, Neasden, London, N.W.10, on Friday, September 18th, at 3 p.m.

On arrival, the members were most courteously received by Miss Ward, the President, in the charming Recreation Room where the Meeting took place.

The President was in the Chair and, on rising, warmly welcomed and thanked those present, some of whom had come so far, for their help at this critical period in Fever Nursing.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

The replies received from the important Medical Societies were considered, and were unanimously agreed to be of a most encouraging nature.

It was decided to communicate with the General Nursing Council asking for further information concerning their intention, as to closure or not, of the Fever Nurses' Register, as a decisive answer was of urgent importance in the matter of enquiring candidates.

The Meeting strongly condemned the raising of the age of applicants to 18 years of age, and beg that future entrants shall be eligible at 17 and 17½ years of age, as previously, as in this arrangement candidates on completion of their two years' Fever Training made good candidates for General work.

The President's Letter.

It was reported that the response to the President's circular letter, issued to Fever Hospitals in England and Wales, had proved most satisfactory, resulting in applications for membership being received from Matrons and all ranks of their staff.

The Hon. Treasurer was also pleased to report a satisfactory Financial Statement.

Warm thanks were accorded the President and Miss Gregory for the strenuous work they had done for the Association, and to Miss Harris and Miss Withers who had taken a most active part in the success of the Association.

The Meeting then terminated, and all enjoyed a most delectable tea, followed later by a tour of the wards and beautiful grounds of Neasden Hospital.

The Annual Meeting

The meeting accepted, with warm thanks, the kind invitation of the Matron and Management of the Seacroft Hospital, Leeds, for the Annual Meeting to take place there on 1st May, 1954.

The Next Meeting

It was unanimously agreed that the next meeting of the Association take place in January, 1954, at the British College of Nurses, Ltd., 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

A course in occupational therapy at the Occupational Therapy Centre at Hampstead, lasting three and a quarter years, is being provided by H.M. Government under the Colombo Plan Technical Co-operation Scheme for Miss E. P. S. Wijeratne from Ceylon who started her training on 21st September.

Mr. Lakshmana Vittal Rao, will spend three years training in physiotherapy at the West London School of Physiotherapy, Kensington, W., he is employed on the nursing staff of the Madras General Hospital.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)