

International Council of Nurses.

At the recent meeting at Chicago of the Nurses' Associated Alumnae of the United States, a letter was received from Miss L. L. Dock, the Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, in the following terms:—

"Miss Damer, President Associated Alumnae of the United States.

"DEAR MADAM PRESIDENT,—The International Council of Nurses hopes at an early date to publish a circular or leaflet to the public upon the desirable standard of a nurse's professional education, and the different branches of which it should be composed. In this leaflet the desirability of a certain amount of preliminary or preparatory training will be urged, and the International Council believes it would be a help and support to have the expression of the Associated Alumnae on this point. Should the Association feel disposed to pass a resolution expressive of its attitude towards preparatory work, may I hope that it will be considered in the light of a statement to the public at large?

"I remain, very truly yours,

"L. L. Dock,

"Secretary International Council."

A Committee was appointed by the Chair, consisting of Miss Riddle, of Boston City Hospital, President-elect; Miss Davis, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston; and Miss Ross, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, to formulate an official statement in reply. At the next Executive Session the President ruled, as the first item of business, "that we will hear the report of the Committee on Resolutions regarding preparatory training to be sent to the International Council of Nurses."

Miss Riddle read the following resolution:—

"In view of the widespread feeling that a preliminary course of instruction is necessary, be it

"Resolved, That the Nurses' Associated Alumnae of the United States use its influence for the universal adoption of this course."

It was moved by Miss Fulmer, and seconded by Miss Cox, that the resolution be adopted.

Resolution carried.

It has been suggested that the question of preliminary education for nurses should be thoroughly reported upon and discussed at the meeting of the International Council in 1904.

The £20 Holiday Prize.

We hope all the competitors for our £20 Holiday Prize will carefully observe the rules to be found on page viii. of the advertisement columns, and that they will specially remember to mark the envelope containing the coupons "Prize Puzzle"; otherwise, as has often been the case, it will be opened and invalidated. We are preparing a nice large bag to contain the letters, and shall no doubt spend Tuesday, July 29th, in opening them.

District Nursing in Canada.

By MISS CHARLOTTE MACLEOD,

Lady Superintendent, Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada.

The pioneers in district nursing in Canada were the Sisters of Charity, who also led the way in hospital nursing. The well-known sisters of Providence have been long engaged in this work, especially in the cities of the Province of Quebec. They go their rounds in pairs, taking with them whatever material is necessary for the services they may be called upon to perform, and they frequently remain hours, or even days, with patients who are too ill to be left in the care of inexperienced hands.

Several of the hospitals also send their nurses out as district nurses, notably the Maternity and Western Hospitals in Montreal. The Winnipeg General Hospital has boarded and lodged one of its graduates for this purpose for the last three years. Nor has the field been left entirely to the hospitals and orders mentioned. Various philanthropic societies have taken up the work of district nursing and are doing all in their power thus to lessen the sufferings of humanity. Perhaps the one of longest standing is the Nursing-at-home Mission in Toronto, which began operations about fourteen years ago in this lovely way:—

A nurse, who was taking a post-graduate course at the Children's Hospital in Toronto, was so impressed with the sad condition in which many of the children were brought to the hospital that she determined to see what could be done by carrying the skill and tenderness of a trained nurse into the homes of the poor. She therefore left the hospital, rented a room, and began work in the district. Her example of devotion was soon followed by another nurse, and shortly afterwards this work came under the auspices of the Mission Union. Finally a home was provided where three women were taken in for training. The superintendent, who is herself a thoroughly qualified nurse, visits the patients with the probationers and gives them practical lessons at the bedside. Experience is also gained in a free dispensary, with which the home has been connected for the last seven years. Courses of lectures, too, are given to the nurses by many of the physicians who employ their services. The period of probation is two years, after which time a diploma is granted. The rate of remuneration of these nurses depends entirely on the amount of charity support accorded the mission from year to year, the work itself being the first consideration. In the report for 1900 it was stated:—

"Gratuities to nurses (eight in number), 421.25 dols. In addition to the home being rent free, there is a city grant of 250 dols., but the

Read at the International Congress of Nurses, Buffalo, 1901.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)