

DENMARK.

Fru Charlotte Norrie, Corresponding Secretary of the Danish National Council of Women.

HON. VICE-PRESIDENTS.
Appointed under Article II.

EUROPE.

Great Britain and Ireland: Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London; Miss E. C. Sandford, late Lady Superintendent City Hospital, Edinburgh.

Germany: Fraulein Hedwig von Schlichting, late Lady Superintendent General Hospital, Hamburg.

Holland: Mej L. Kruysse, Lady Superintendent Wilhelmina Hospital, Amsterdam.

Italy: Miss Amy Turton, Directress Casa di Cura, Florence.

ASIA.

India: Miss C. R. Mill, Lady Superintendent European Hospital, Bombay.

AMERICA.

Canada: Miss M. A. Snively, Lady Superintendent General Hospital, Toronto.

AUSTRALASIA.

Federated Australia: Miss S. B. McGahey, late Lady Superintendent Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney.

Tasmania: Miss Milne, Lady Superintendent the Hospital, Launceston.

Now, at this Quinquennial Period the Council stands ready to receive National Organisations of Nurses into membership, as the Constitution provides, and we hope that in five years from now the International Council will be composed of the National Associations of many countries.

It was proposed by Miss Stewart, seconded by Miss Mollett, and carried, that the Report be adopted and placed on the minutes.

The minutes of the last meeting were then taken as read, and confirmed.

The President then said:—

We have come here to-day to hold the first Quinquennial Business Meeting of the International Council of Nurses. Since the Council was tentatively founded in 1899, it has been working on an individual basis, and its members have been striving to forward its objects—the promotion of greater unity of thought, sympathy, and purpose, of international communication between nurses, and of International Conference. The ideal of the Council, however, as Miss Dock has shown, is that admission to membership shall be through National Organisations, and it is satisfactory to be able to report that three countries have now National Associations organised, and eligible for affiliation with the International Council of Nurses—the United States, through the American Federation of Nurses; England, through the Provisional Committee recently formed of Delegates of Leagues and self-governing Nursing Societies; and Germany, through the German Nurses' Association.

This afternoon the meeting will take the form of a Conference, when we shall receive reports from affiliated countries on (a) Legislation, and (b) Education; in the second section we have a paper by

Miss Nutting, Superintendent of the Nursing School of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. This paper gives the result of the practical application of the system advocated, while those from other countries are suggestive. I therefore propose that we take Miss Nutting's paper as the text of the discussion on this question before putting a Resolution to the meeting.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

COURAGE.

Mrs. Fenwick said:—I do not propose to give a long address this morning, as we have a great deal of business before us, but I should like to say a few words on the beautiful virtue of Courage, and I will take as my text the motto engraved on the signet ring of the Sultan Akbar:—

“None ever lost himself along a straight road.”

If we walk along a straight road towards a definite object we are certain to attain our goal eventually, if we do not allow ourselves to be diverted into the pleasant by-ways which are so much easier to traverse than the hard, dusty main road. But to do this it is necessary to withstand many temptations to the right hand and the left, to pursue a difficult, and often solitary, course towards the object to be attained.

To quote the great Emerson:—

“It is only as a man puts off all foreign support and stands alone that I see him to be strong and prevail. . . . Ask nothing of men, and in the endless mutation, thou alone, firm column must presently appear the upholder of all that surrounds thee. He who knows that power is inborn, that he is weak because he has looked for good out of him and elsewhere, and, so perceiving, throws himself unhesitatingly on his thought, instantly rights himself, stands in the erect position, commands his limbs, works miracles; just as a man who stands on his feet is stronger than a man who stands on his head.

“So use all that is called Fortune. Most men gamble with her, and gain all, or lose all as her wheel rolls. But do thou leave as unlawful these winnings, and deal with Cause and Effect, the chancellors of God. In the will work and acquire, and thou hast chained the wheel of Chance and shall sit hereafter out of fear of her rotations. A political victory, a rise of rents, the recovery of your sick, or the return of your absent friend, or some other favourable event, raises your spirits, and you think good days are preparing for you. Do not believe it. Nothing can bring you peace but yourself. Nothing can bring you peace but the triumph of principles.”

Now, Emerson wrote so many wise and lovely things that one might quote him all day long, but it is this principle of standing alone which I wish to emphasise, because it is just this that many people find so difficult.

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