

### NURSING ECHOES.

The International Council of Nurses has received an invitation from the Union of International Associations at Brussels to send representatives to the Annual Reunion of the Central Committee to be held at Brussels on April 15th and 16th next. In their letter of invitation the President, M. A. Beernaert, and the General Secretaries, M. H. La Fontaine and M. P. Otlet, state that since the Reunion in 1910 of the first world's Congress of International Associations, the work of which the foundations were then established has continually increased. The object of the Union of International Associations is to establish a centre to facilitate the work of international organizations, to study common questions of organization, co-ordination of efforts, and unification of methods, to create co-operation between institutions, and thus to contribute towards the organization of international peace.

The North London Nursing Association, which has been established 34 years, recently held its annual meeting at the Home, 413, Holloway Road. The attendance was presided over by Sir Victor Horsley. The report stated that the number of visits paid by the nurses during the year exceeded 41,000.

It was a source of much happiness to those responsible for the work that the great blessing of skilled nursing had been shared in by so many of the sick poor of this large northern district of London. And not only the receiving of skilled nursing, for it must not be forgotten that the nurse carried with her, in addition, many other gifts which conferred a great benefit on many a poor household, such as the teaching of cleanliness and the laws of health.

The serious deficit with which last year started had been entirely wiped out, but the large amount which had to be raised year by year must continue to be a matter of much anxiety and of much hard work for those who were responsible for the efficient upkeep of this most important work. The trustees of the Richard Cloudesley Charities had again given splendid help, and among other organisations mentioned in the report in this particular were the Islington Charities Committee, the Hornsey Parochial Charities, and churches and chapels. Many who returned thanks paid a warm tribute to Dr. Malcolm, the Superintendent (Miss Stanley), her staff, and the honorary auditors.

In moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, Sir Victor Horsley said that in

institutional nursing we had nurses part of a vast machine which was highly staffed in every way from a medical point of view, but in district nursing the work was carried on sometimes under great difficulty, yet efficiently. Therefore it seemed to him that the district nurses were the pioneers of civilisation.

Personally, he thought the alcohol question was the greatest social evil, and here he looked to the district nurses again as the pioneers of civilisation, for he was sure they were fighting against this great cause of disease and also cruelty.

He strongly supported Registration in connection with the nursing profession, remarking that the question was vital to it. The British Medical Association, he said, was foremost in this fight at the present moment for Registration.

Sir Victor concluded his sympathetic speech with good wishes for the success of the Association, and gratitude to the Superintendent and staff.

The second number of the Journal of the Cleveland Street Branch of the Nurses' League of the Central London Sick Asylum District, which has just made its appearance, is excellently produced, and we congratulate all concerned upon it. The frontispiece is an excellent portrait of Dr. Hopkins, the Medical Superintendent, which is sure to be appreciated by the members. A most interesting article on "Six Years in North China" is contributed by Dr. Walter Phillips, a former Assistant Medical Officer at the Cleveland Street Infirmary, which describes the life in Newchang, the Port of South Manchuria, with its extremes of heat and cold. In summer "a leisured few lie on shady verandahs in the coolest of silk clothes, slowly absorbing long glasses of iced drinks. The perspiring many toil in fly-infested offices, or, protected with shades and white topees, crawl out into the blazing sun, longing, as they hug the shadows, for a sight of cool green English lanes. . . . In winter the Arctic night closes down on all the frostbound land, the mercury drops far below zero, till the very ground itself cracks with intensity of cold. In such a port the doctor plays many parts, and as Medical Officer of Health has to inspect the shipping. There are more desirable places on a hot afternoon than the holds and 'tween decks of a steamer carrying 800 or 1,000 famine refugees, packed into every niche of space and afflicted with many strange diseases, most of whom have been seasick in those narrow quarters, without the convenience of stewards and basins. . . . By way of contrast, examining

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