

THE DUBLIN CONFERENCE.

The Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses met on Thursday the 6th inst. to consider an invitation from the Irish Nurses' Association that the first Annual Conference of the Council should be held in Dublin in the first week in June next, and it unanimously decided to accept the kind invitation for the 4th, 5th, and 6th of June, and the Hon. Secretary was directed to express with how much pleasure it was received.

A small sub-committee was appointed to work in co-operation with the Special Conference Committee of the Irish Nurses' Association.

It was agreed that it would be well to follow the precedents of the organization of the International Meetings, which have proved so eminently successful and helpful to all concerned.

The Irish Nurses' Association will act as the hostess to the National Council, and will select the questions it desires discussed in conference. Such questions to be classified in sections so as to get continuity of debate. Experts on the subjects selected will be invited to present short papers, and an opener of discussion will also be arranged. One session may be devoted to "Questions" of topical interest. The procedure on resolutions to be decided, so that they may appear upon the Agenda and be thoroughly discussed before adoption.

There are so many burning questions which trained nurses have little opportunity of discussing together in a professional environment, that the National Council Conference, conducted on ethical lines, will in future prove a unique opportunity for this being done. How greatly such an opportunity is appreciated has been proved by the universal support given to the International Congresses on Nursing, and the wide range of questions thereat discussed.

Irish nurses as a whole are preparing to give cordial support to the first Nursing Conference organized by trained nurses to be held in Dublin. Lady Hermione Blackwood and the Ulster Branch of the I.N.A. have welcomed the suggestion, and all that now remains is for the nurses of the three Kingdoms to do all in their power to make the gathering a success.

A Nursing Exhibition will be organized and Social Gatherings arranged.

The cost of tickets and tariffs is a very important item to nurses if they are to attend, so we have no doubt these economic points will be at once well considered by the Irish Executive.

IRISH CONFERENCE SUB-COMMITTEE.

The following ladies have been elected to form the Organizing Committee: Miss Huxley, Miss Butler, Miss Cunningham, Miss Eddison, Miss Joy, Miss Keating, Miss O'Flynn, Miss O'Brien, Miss Reeves, Miss Reed, Miss Ramsden, Miss Thornton, Miss Hughes, Miss Patton, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Major, and Miss A. Carson Rae, the Hon. Secretary.

IMPRESSIONS ON NURSING IN THE UNITED STATES.

III.

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This brings us to the nurses themselves, and foremost amongst them to the Matrons, as we call them, the Superintendents of Nurse Training Schools, as I learnt to call them in the States. I may be wrong, but it seemed to me that it was more fully recognized than with us that the Superintendent is a living head, a superior nurse, by reason of superior wisdom and skill and knowledge. I am, and always have been, a heretic on the subject of Matrons. Take them all round, and with apologies to the honourable exceptions amongst them, they remind me most uncomfortably of my handsome bronze turkey-cock when he gets on to the top of the large mound of compost behind the cottage, spreads his tail, swells up, drops his wing feathers to touch the ground, and says "gr—r—r." He is quite impossible in that condition. He is also quite useless without the co-operation of other folk whom he despises. He can't lay an egg; he can't hatch out the babies; he can't do anything alone. But he fancies he can—that he is the world, and that the world was made for him. He is serenely unconscious that outside Ballincoona there are worlds, and worlds, and again worlds of which he has no inkling; that other people have rights quite as definite as his own; and that there are fifty other American bronze turkeys in the county of Kerry bigger and stronger and handsomer than himself. He fancies himself because he is ignorant, and orders other folk about in a lordly way, with small regard for justice, or even manners.

Nurses, you and I know such turkeys. We may have served under them; we have often met them. They are no *rara avis*. To my mind, the Matron of a hospital at home, and especially in the smaller training schools, is far too *sacro-sanct*. She is compelled to uphold her dignity and flutter about her authority, just because she dare not let anyone get near enough to find out how little she knows and how meagre has been

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