

## THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

A few weeks hence and, had it not been for this disastrous war, the nurses of the world would have been flocking in their hundreds to the Triennial Meeting of the International Council of Nurses. Alas! now Europe will be practically unrepresented at the business meeting of the Council, which will be held to maintain the continuity of its work at San Francisco on June 21st next. Miss A. Hulme and Miss B. Kent, who will represent the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, will convey our reports and greetings to San Francisco. They are promised a most cordial welcome and delightful time, which will be officially reported in this JOURNAL. A week is to be spent before boarding the Nurses' Train on June 9th, with Miss Dock in New York, and we just don't wish to think any more of that splendid trip from the Atlantic to the Pacific, as duty decrees its joys are not for us. *L'homme propose, Dieu dispose.* Veritably into the air have vanished all these lovely castles, anticipated with so much pleasure. Education Day, however, has not been abandoned, and in the beautiful Greek theatre at Berkeley on June 23rd some of the most distinguished nurse educators will take part in the programme.

It is the desire of the American Nurses' Association to bring the educational aims of the teaching body of our profession before the heads of seminaries, high schools, and colleges on this occasion.

The American Hospitals Association has accepted the nurses' invitation to be guests at the Education Session.

The beautiful Festival Hall within the Exposition grounds has been granted to the nurses for a great meeting on June 22nd. The Clift Hotel, close to the Exposition gates, is to be the nurses' headquarters. To all nurses able to foregather at San Francisco for "Nurses' week" we offer wishes for a delightful time. Ever optimistic, we are now looking forward to "Copenhagen" in 1918. Even subsequent disappointment cannot affect the joy of anticipation, and people with imagination have a gay time—in spite of problematical "rainy days."

Miss K. E. M. Dumbell, an American nurse, has prepared a most useful and interesting book of "Suggestions for the West Bound Traveler," entitled "California and the Far West." It is published by James Pott & Co., of New York, and will no doubt be in great demand in the United States and Canada.

## NURSING AND THE WAR.

It is reported from Malta that the Governor's appeal for aid in nursing the sick and wounded has exceeded all expectations, and accommodation can now be found for several thousand patients. The chief difficulty is reported to be in finding trained or even half-trained nurses, as Great Britain can spare so few. The Governor is appealing to the women of Malta and Gozo, and it is hoped in this way to surmount the difficulty. The nursing of the sick and wounded from the Dardanelles and elsewhere can only be adequately met by the provision of an adequate number of trained nurses. As Lady Methuen is at home we hope she will engage a supply of trained nurses and send them at once to Malta.

We are informed by a leading London surgeon that before deciding the salaries of trained nurses to work in auxiliary military hospitals, the War Office consulted some of the London hospital Matrons, who stated that £1 is a week was ample remuneration! It would be interesting to know who these ladies were. We repeat that the War Office should have consulted the organised Nurses' Associations. As their members have to do the work, they should have had an opportunity of expressing an opinion. The surgeon alluded to realises that if young medical students recently qualified are to receive 24s. a day, or £3 8s. a week, it is very unfair that experienced, skilled, certificated nurses who have to work much harder than these young doctors, should only receive one-eighth (and often less) of that sum.

Dr. W. J. de Courcy Wheeler, F.R.C.S.I., of Dublin, has been discussing in the Press the best means of meeting the shortage of nurses for military hospitals. He considers that the resources of the nursing organizations are by no means exhausted and that all hospitals, nursing co-operative societies, and nursing institutions should be circularised and enquiry made (1) as to the number of fully-trained nurses the particular institution could supply for the period of the war, on terms to be arranged, and on the same conditions as they are at present supplied to the public, and (2) the number of probationers of over one year's hospital training who could be liberated until the end of the war, their training in military hospitals to count as part of their three years' course. The members of Voluntary Aid Detachments would then be drafted into the civil hospitals to replace them.

Sister Bow, R.N.S., has just returned from six months' service in France. She writes:—

"Twelve beds in a villa, at Deauville, a seaside resort which is ordinarily one of the most fashionable in the world, but in time of war empty, save for wounded, and miles away from the front! It does not sound very exciting, and yet some necessary work has been done there.

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