

From MISS GARNER:—I should before now have acknowledged your letter of December 22nd. It is sad to think that the Congress which you had planned with such thought will be so sadly reduced in scope by the war. But the plans of practically the whole world have been changed by it, and one can only hope that it may not continue very much longer, though I fear there is not much at present to justify that hope. Naturally there will be few, if any, Australian nurses going to the Congress; all who can get away have gone to Europe to work in military hospitals. A very prominent member of our Association, Miss E. L. Hunter, is, however, at present in the States and has kindly acceded to the request of the Council that she should represent the Association at your meeting. Miss Hunter was for some years the matron of the Brisbane Hospital, and was one of those most instrumental in founding the Queensland Branch of the Association of which she was joint Honorary Secretary until her departure from Australia. I am sorry to say that nothing further has been done in the way of affiliating with the International Council. Our Council approved of affiliation, but owing to the fact that we cannot affiliate as an association, but must form a combined committee consisting of members of our Association and of the Victorian Association, matters are at a standstill. Our Council and the Council of the Victorian Association approved of an attempt to form such a committee, but distance and the fact that nurses cannot often get away from their work has prevented any such committee from becoming a fact, so we must be content with sending you an unofficial representative, without being actually affiliated. With best wishes for the success of your meeting.

I know that you will rejoice with me that we have the great privilege of having with us two delegates from England, Misses Hulme and Kent. Miss Kent is the duly accredited delegate of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland to the Triennial Meeting of the International Council. She also represents THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, the official organ of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland. Miss Hulme and Miss Kent will present reports from England.

At a meeting which was held this morning, it was decided that the meeting in 1918 should be held in Denmark, that country being neutral and having extended an invitation, and it seemed an advisable place for our next meeting. The President chosen was Madame Henny Tscherning, who is very well known to our English nurses and also to those who have been in touch with international matters. Miss Breay, the Honorary Treasurer, and Miss Dock, Honorary Secretary, were re-elected.

(To be concluded.)

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS MEDICAL SERVICE BOARD.

SCHEME FOR GRANTS.

Schemes framed by the Highlands and Islands (Medical Service) Board providing for (A) grants to medical practitioners, (B) grants to district nursing associations, (C) grants to hospitals and for ambulance services, (D) grants towards the provision or improvement of houses for doctors and nurses, (E) grants towards specialised services, (F) grants towards telegraph and telephone facilities, have been approved by the Secretary for Scotland with the consent of the Treasury. The memoranda can be purchased ($\frac{1}{2}$ d. each), either directly or through any bookseller, from H.M. Stationery Office, Scottish Branch, 23, Forth Street, Edinburgh, or from Wyman & Sons, 29, Breems Buildings, Fetter Lane, London. We publish Memorandum B, and that part of Memorandum D which specially refers to nurses.

B.—GRANTS TO DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATIONS.

The Memorandum in regard to district nursing associations and as to the general conditions under which such associations will be eligible to participate in grants from the Highlands and Islands (Medical Service) Fund is as follows:—

The Board desire to call the attention of district nursing associations, county councils, public health authorities, parish councils, Secondary Education Committees, school boards, and other bodies and persons interested in nursing in the Highlands and Islands to the annexed statement of general conditions under which district nursing associations will be eligible to participate in grants from the Highlands and Islands (Medical Service) Fund.

The Board are of opinion that a well-organised nursing service is the natural corollary of any efficient medical service. They are, accordingly, prepared to treat in a liberal spirit all reasonable proposals for the maintenance or extension of the nursing service wherever anything like adequate local support is forthcoming. But they would view with concern any indication that the local efforts, on which this branch of the service has hitherto had to depend for its existence, were likely to be relaxed in anticipation of grants from the Board. The qualifications of nurses will always require careful scrutiny, having regard to the work which they will be called upon to perform. In most cases, the nurse should have had a training in midwifery sufficient to enable her to act in cases where the services of a doctor may not be available. In addition, an adequate general medical and surgical training will be necessary wherever the nurse is required to assist, in the domiciliary treatment of tuberculosis, in the treatment of diseases and defects of infants and school children, or in promoting among the people a knowledge of personal and household hygiene. The claims of island communities for the services of well qualified nurses, where the population is not sufficiently large to warrant the appointment of

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