

RE-KNITTING BROKEN INTERNATIONAL THREADS.

AN INVITATION TO ATLANTA NEXT APRIL.

Miss Lavinia L. Dock, R.N., Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, sends us the following statement for publication:—

"The Board of Directors of the American Nurses' Association, by an action taken at their meeting in Chicago, on June 27th, are inviting the Executive Committee of the International Council of Nurses, to meet with the three American national bodies: viz., The American Nurses' Association, the National League of Nursing Education, and the National Organization for Public Health Nursing, at their next regular meetings at Atlanta, Georgia, in the early part of April, 1920.

The Executive Committee of the International, consists of the honorary and elected officers, for the current term, of each national association or council in membership. If these officers could meet with us, or if even a few of them could be present, it would give an opportunity for going over the international situation and laying plans for a gradual re-knitting of broken threads.

The new developments of world-nursing in connection with the vast projects for public health conservation, recently put forth by the Red Cross, and the intimations put forth by high officials of the Red Cross, that the new activities shall not only be directed toward public health nursing, but toward the extermination of war, suggest to us the possibility of our International Council being overshadowed by larger international meetings in which, as nurses, we shall wish to take an active part; for it is clear that all this extension of public health work will mean that nurses must be active co-partners, on a full equality with other members of the new Red Cross International. But while we may be overshadowed, at least for a time, with every one still full to the brim of their all-absorbing war activities and those arising out of the war, we must not let ourselves be undermined.

We must remember that the original and foremost aim of the International Council of Nurses was to help and encourage in every country the growth of *self-governing societies of nurses*. This will not be accomplished until every country has free nursing associations. The extension of woman suffrage in Europe has brought this aim much nearer, but there is still work for our International to do before it may allow itself to be absorbed by bigger forces, however good they may be."

Miss Dock adds, "Atlanta will be a charming place at which to meet. We can there have a pleasant Executive Council meeting and talk over plans for future congresses. The officers of the National Associations are, I believe, going to send out their own personal letters to our National members, laying especial stress on the educational conferences to which they hope you will add your voices, and I think probably the Public Health Nursing people will also want you all for special things."

This invitation will be placed before our National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland at its annual meeting early in November, when it is to be hoped that we shall find means of being represented at the very important meeting at Atlanta next April, when once again the important work of the International Council of Nurses, which has borne such good fruit in the past, may make its influence felt in nursing circles throughout the world in promoting good fellowship in our ranks, and uplifting our work for the benefit of humanity.

THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES.

The League of Red Cross Societies, with headquarters at Geneva, now issues a very useful bulletin. No. 2, June 1st, is devoted to the proceedings of the Medical Conference held at Cannes last April, some report of which has appeared in this journal; and we shall from time to time keep our readers acquainted with the work of the League. THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, as one of the principal organs of the International Council of Nurses, has for the past twenty years encouraged a wide and sympathetic international attitude, where health and nursing were concerned, and now that we are again at peace, we shall revert to our former policy so far as possible. The League of Red Cross Societies appointed sections at Cannes to prepare reports in specific subjects which were constituted with the following chairmen:—

Venereal Diseases, Dr. Ducrey; Child Welfare, Sir Arthur Newsholme; Tuberculosis, Dr. Calmette; Malaria, Professor Laveran; Nursing, Miss Julia Stimson.

Resolutions were adopted in the various sections outlining the programme recommended in their fuller reports, all of which are of great value. The following resolutions were recommended by the Nursing Section.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE SECTION OF NURSING.

Because of the impossibility of assembling at Cannes a sufficiently representative number of nurses qualified to make pronouncements on the functions of trained public health nurses in the

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