

Asistencia Publica Nacional-Escuela de Nurses.

MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY,

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, London.

DEAR MADAM,—I enclose herewith a request of the National Association of Nurses of Uruguay (Asociacion Nacional de Nurses del Uruguay) to be allowed to join the International Council of Nurses. This Association has been established since last year with the object of fostering the nursing profession in Uruguay. The professional nurses associated have all been trained in the "Escuela de Nurses de la Asistencia Pública Nacional (Montevideo)," of which I am the Medical Director.

This training school was founded ten years ago (January, 1912) by the authorities, with the object of training Uruguayan girls in the nursing of patients in the hospitals of the country. The school consists of two separate buildings, a small hospital of forty beds, with an out-patient department and a Nurses' Home. It was started with the aid of five English Sisters from some of the British Hospitals (London, Birmingham General, and St. Mary's), whom I engaged and brought out with me from England in 1912. At the end of our three years' agreement they left us and returned home. Since then the Matron and Sisters are all Uruguayan ladies, in whom I have found the most efficient collaborators.

It goes without saying that we have followed as strictly as possible the English system of training, and have emphasised the moral side, especially trying to awaken in our nurses the ideals which have made the name of Florence Nightingale the revered inspiration of world-wide influence.

In justice I must say that having been for years a keen reader of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, I have found your paper a great help that has enabled us to guide our nurses through many difficulties, and also to advise them in their efforts to organise themselves into their National Association.

I venture to hope, dear Madam, that you will kindly recommend the request of our Association for affiliation with the International Council of Nurses.

Thanking you in advance, I remain,

Your obedient servant,

CARLOS NERY, M.D.

All over the world our BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING carried the demand for Higher Education of Nurses, and Organisation through State Registration, and stood alone against the subsidised trade nursing press for this great reform in this country, and we rejoice to know that it has inspired the generous and far-seeing policy of Dr. Carlos Nery in helping our colleagues in Uruguay to form themselves into a National Association of Nurses, who are eager to be linked with us in international good fellowship. We deeply regret that for the first time in twenty-two years we shall not be able to attend the Meeting of the Grand

Council of the International, at Copenhagen, a visit to which charming and hospitable city in 1906 makes us all the more sad that it cannot be repeated.

Our International Council has been given at each Meeting a Watchword. In the past these Watchwords have been Work, Courage, Life, and Aspiration, and we are still under the latter administration, soaring after what is noble, and indeed have we not great need to aspire and cling to our highest ideals in this age of cruel materialism, when coarse-fibred despotism does not hesitate to attempt to crush under heel our most sacred professional aspirations, and reduce us to self-interested, soulless serfs? Re-read our International Watchword, assimilate it, and let it help you to resist all cowardice, all untruth, and all tyranny—

"ASPIRATION."

THE WATCHWORD IN 1912.

Given by MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,
Hon. President.

MADAM PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES, AND FRATERNAL DELEGATES,—It is our custom when in Grand Council assembled to select a Watchword which shall serve as a common bond of union till we meet again. Work—Courage—Life—all these have sounded the note of our endeavours for a period of years, and the word I propose we shall take as our motto for the next triennial term is Aspiration.

This word expresses a desire to seek eagerly after that which is above us. That was the inspiration of the Council Idea, and that is its goal. The essential essence of Nursing is not merely to afford skilled help to suffering and diseased humanity—it is something far higher than that. It is the endeavour to appropriate the spiritual force which is the common heritage of our profession, bequeathed to it by many noble men and women, our predecessors, who have served the sick of all ages in every land; a reserve force upon which, as long as we walk worthily, we may freely draw, a force potent with grace, so that in helping to heal the body, those to whom we minister may discern the fineness of motive which inspires our vocation, and the uplifting spiritual zeal which inspires our service, and may be sustained and comforted thereby.

From its inception our Council has aspired far beyond what was considered practicable.

To infuse with a sense of professional solidarity the nurses of all nations, so that as a community they should zealously conserve the health and happiness of the people—the essential right of Life—that with sound knowledge and skill they should serve and restore to health the sick in mind and body—and in so doing maintain the honour of their profession—are lofty aims. Believing, as we do, that these high aims can be advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy and purpose, we have banded ourselves together in this Inter-

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