

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

We are receiving letters from various National Associations of Trained Nurses federated in the International Council of Nurses, asking for information as to its connection, if any, with the new organisation termed "The European Council for Nursing Education," promoted by the League of Red Cross Societies, which has now its headquarters in Paris, and which recently held its second annual meeting there.

At present there is no connection between the two organisations, but the fundamental difference in the organisation of the two Councils is—that the International Council of Nurses is composed of Federated National Organisations of Trained Nurses, and is, therefore, a purely professional Council, and the new organisation is not.

The I.C.N. meets triennially for the purpose of: (a) Providing a means of communication between the Nurses of all Nations, and (b) to provide opportunities for Nurses to meet together from all parts of the world, to confer, and take action, upon questions relating to the welfare of their Patients and their Profession. The International Council has adopted resolutions (1) in support of an International Standard of Nursing Education based upon a term of three years' training, and (2) in favour of State Organisation and Registration of Trained Nurses, and has held Nursing Conventions of world-wide interest and influence in London, Berlin, Buffalo, Paris, Cologne, and in other cities, and during the war kept in touch, through their official organs, with the National Councils of Nurses in Great Britain and Ireland, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand, India, South Africa, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Norway, Finland, Italy, and China, with France through Dr. Anna Hamilton, Vice-President, and with nurses in many other parts of the world.

At the business meeting of the Council, held at Copenhagen last May, Baroness Mannerheim, President of the National Council of Nurses of Finland, was elected President, and the International Council is convened to meet at Helsingfors in 1925.

We hope the National Councils of Nurses will jealously guard their fundamental basis of professional membership, just as the International Medical Council does; it is imperative if the professional and economic status of the Nurses' Council is to have full and sufficient liberty of thought and action.

The International Council has nothing narrow in its outlook, and invites and welcomes fraternal delegates who are not nurses to its Conferences, but, of course, quite rightly, these guests are not empowered to vote and decide its professional policy.

We gather that the policy of the European Council for Nursing Education, which at present is a little young to assume this somewhat inclusive title, approves of definitely recognising the interdependence of nurses and those interested in

promoting nursing education—such as hospital administrators, Red Cross officials, doctors, and other lay persons. In other words it does not propose to organise on a professional basis, so that it should in no way assume to compete with the International Council of Nurses, which is founded on this rock, any more than it would assume to dictate to the Medical International on medical ethics and education.

Full and free discussion between the laity and members of professions, the policy of the European Council, has its uses no doubt. It also has its dangers if the laity assume a right of control as the British Red Cross Society does in this country—where there is not one Registered Nurse on its Council or Committees, and where social influence and money alone secure representation.

None of the ladies promoting the European Council have ever had the advantage of attending our wonderful International Meetings. Do not let them forget that at Cologne we assembled 1,000 accredited Delegates from 23 countries of the world, and took counsel together on dozens of burning nursing questions and needed reforms, and that through the pioneer work of our International leaders—guided by the altruistic spirit of the Hon. Secretary, Miss Lavinia Dock—many of these questions burn no longer, so many reforms have been accomplished of late years. Even nurses in Great Britain and Ireland, after a thirty years' struggle, can now write "Registered Nurse" after their names! and will attend at Helsingfors in glittering slippers—no longer the Cinderellas of the Nursing Profession!

I note from the report of the London Meeting in 1909, that in addition to the Official Delegates, we welcomed 192 Fraternal Delegates, from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Java, Japan, New Zealand, and the United States of America—to say nothing of all the eminent people resident in England, who graced our Congress with their presence, and who entertained us with such lavish hospitality.

The International spirit is an all-inclusive spirit, and we have no doubt at our next merry meeting in Finland we shall meet hundreds of the younger generation of nurses, inspired with just the same humane and progressive spirit which animated the founders of our great "International" by British and American Nurses in London in 1899.

Anyway, whether official or fraternal delegates, their welcome is assured.

ETHEL G. FENWICK,
(*Founder, International Council of Nurses*).

A POPULAR WEDDING.

Princess Yolanda, the eldest daughter of the King and Queen of Italy, was married on Monday in Rome to Count Calvi di Bergolo. A most popular wedding in Italy. The Italian Colonies in London contributed £250 for a gift, and the Princess announced that she would prefer it should be devoted to the Italian Hospital in London.

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