

desires to convey to the National Councils of Nurses of Belgium, Italy, Norway, China, and South Africa, its cordial congratulations on their affiliation to the International Council of Nurses, at Copenhagen in 1922, and looks forward to the comradeship which it will enjoy with the nurses of these countries through this affiliation, and especially to meeting some of their members at Helsingfors in 1925, when the International Council of Nurses will assemble in professional and social intercourse."

THE INTERNATIONAL SPIRIT.

Mrs. Fenwick said that the *raison d'être* of the National Council of Trained Nurses was to encourage understanding and friendship between the nurses of all nations, to acquire knowledge of the social and educational conditions of nurses in other countries; and to encourage throughout the nursing world personal and professional responsibility. Federation in the International Council of Nurses had in the past proved of the utmost value in widening human and professional sympathy. At this meeting the Council was fortunate in having with it Miss J. Bicknell, A.R.R.C., the Director of the Division of Nursing in the Health Department, New Zealand, one of the most enlightened countries in the world; Miss J. C. Child, S.R.N., Overseas' President of the South African Trained Nurses' Association, a young, but most vigorous and progressive organisation; Miss Aeschmann, Diplomée of the pioneer Florence Nightingale School for Nurses at Bordeaux, who was an international student at Bedford College.

Mrs. Fenwick invited Miss Bicknell to tell the meeting something of nursing and nurses' organisation in New Zealand.

NEW ZEALAND.

Miss Bicknell said that the New Zealand Trained Nurses' Association, which was affiliated to the International Council of Nurses, consisted of four branches, at Wellington, Dunedin, Christchurch and Auckland.

They did not think it a good plan to have more than these four branches, but they also had a Central Council. It was impossible to keep up interest unless they met frequently.

They tried to improve the standard of training. A difficult class of girl was now coming into nursing. During her stay in England she had been investigating the question of the best standard to expect. She found an idea was that when girls went into the secondary schools they should have some preparation, in the subjects taught, to prepare them for their training as nurses.

Miss Bicknell referred to the obsolete clauses of the New Zealand Nurses' Registration Act, passed in 1901, which lapsed when the Act came into full operation after the term of grace, and showed that even at that date—twenty-two years ago—a higher standard was required during the period of grace than that required by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, a three years' training in a hospital with certificate, or four years, and to pass an examination, were the minimum

standards; untrained nurses had never been permitted to register, and thus injure nursing standards, and cause serious risks to the sick employing them.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Miss J. C. Child gave a slight sketch of the South African Trained Nurses' Association. Before she went out to the Boer War she was a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and she had had the advantage of hearing the first speech upon it made in Brighton by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in 1887. For some time an Association could not be thoroughly launched in South Africa because there were no means for the different provinces to get into touch with one another.

The South African Trained Nurses' Association was legally started in 1914, and at the end of the war was about 1,000 strong. Nurses trained in South Africa did not get their hospital certificates until they had gained the State Certificate. The value of the Association was greatly felt, and questions were sent round to all the branches. They found it absolutely necessary to have an Annual Meeting somewhere. The Association covered a large area from the Cape to Pretoria, and every branch raised a fund and paid its own delegates. It was a strong National Association, and a very healthy child of the British Empire and of the International Council of Nurses.

THE BORDEAUX SCHOOL OF NURSING.

Mrs. Fenwick regretted that Miss Aeschmann, who was an international student, had been compelled to leave to attend a lecture, so could not report to them. She had received her training in the *École Florence Nightingale* at Bordeaux—the pioneer Nursing School in France.

Mrs. Fenwick said the school, which she had visited with the deepest interest many times, was started in very restricted surroundings in connection with the *Maison de Santé* (a General and Maternity Hospital) in Bordeaux. Heroic work was done there in nurse teaching for many years. Then came the splendid bequest of Mdlle. Bosc of the estate of Bagatelle, with undreamed-of possibilities. It had always been Mrs. Fenwick's hope that England would have helped develop this Nightingale School, but America had stepped in where we were afraid to tread. The American Nurses had subscribed £10,000 as a Memorial to their sisters who lost their lives in the Great War, and had erected the beautiful new *École Florence Nightingale* at Bagatelle, thus crowning the splendid efforts on behalf of the sick of Dr. Anna Hamilton in France.

Mrs. Fenwick passed round beautiful photographs of the new School sent by Dr. Anna Hamilton, showing the fine building, the pupils in their library, decorated with a bust of its Founder, and with pictures of American nurse pioneers—the late Mrs. Hampton Robb, Miss Delano, and others—recreation room, study, and bedrooms.

The School had its own professional organ, *La Dame à la Lampe*.

(To be concluded.)

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