

wide that there was no difficulty in this. These great meetings had been an illumination to numbers of countries, and those who attended them realised the impetus and inspiration received from the International Council. It helped to grow the seed in countries where that seed had already germinated.

MISS ISABEL STEWART (U.S.A.) put forward the suggestion that the countries of the Near East might form a group which might belong, directly or indirectly, to the International Council of Nurses.

The Session then terminated.

1 p.m.—Afternoon Session.

When the Conference re-assembled the Chair was taken by M^{lle}. LA COMTESSE LOUISE D'URSEL (Vice-President I.C.N. for Belgium), and the ceremony which then took place was not only of far-reaching importance, but the most interesting feature of the Conference.

The first business was the reception of Hon. Vice-Presidents, and the Chairman called upon the President to announce the previous election by the Executive Committee of Miss Rachel C. Torrance (Bulgaria), Miss Enid Newton (Serbia), Miss Ella Anscombe (Rumania), Miss Lyda Anderson (Turkey), Miss Helen Bridge (Poland), and Miss Zacca (Greece); the first three ladies mentioned being present.

RECEPTION OF HON. VICE-PRESIDENTS.

BARONESS MANNERHEIM (President) then said that it was a tradition of the International Council of Nurses to appoint Hon. Vice-Presidents. The word "welcome" was a nice word to say, and another was "Thank you." She wanted to say not only "welcome," but "thank you" to the new Hon. Vice-Presidents. Never before had the International Council of Nurses more cause for gratitude than to these women who went with the banner of nursing to countries where trained nursing was but little known. It was a beautiful page in nursing history on which was inscribed a record of their work done in a beautifully fine spirit. The decision of the Executive Committee to elect them as Hon. Vice-Presidents was influenced by a twofold motive, to show a warm appreciation of the work they had done and to get into direct contact with the countries in which they were respectively working, until such time as National Councils of Nurses should be fully formed there.

Baroness Mannerheim enumerated the names of the new Hon. Vice-Presidents, if they gave the International Council of Nurses the joy of accepting these positions.

THE HON. VICE-PRESIDENT FOR BULGARIA.

She then said:—

MISS TORRANCE—It is a special pleasure to us to welcome you. We trust that before long Bulgaria will have full representation in the International Council of Nurses through a National Council of Nurses.

MISS TORRANCE said that she, personally, was very pleased to accept the appointment of Hon. Vice-President for Bulgaria. When Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg married Princess Clementina—after whom a hospital was named—she called to her aid from Austria fifty Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul. During the war of 1878 Russian Sisters came to the aid of Bulgaria; and fifteen years ago the Red Cross established short courses for nurses, which had been taken by 265 nurses. In 1913, Queen Eleonore finished the course, and the Society still continued its work of providing short courses for young women living in their own homes.

In 1913 Miss Hay (U.S.A.) was asked to organise a School in Bulgaria and she (Miss Torrance) acted as her assistant. Later Miss Hay left and the work was continued under German Sisters, now Russian Sisters were working in Bulgaria.

Some time ago the Bulgarian Red Cross asked to have the scheme re-organised and the School was supported by a budget from the Red Cross.

Nursing was regarded as a very menial service in Bulgaria. The aim of the new School, which she supervised, was to prepare well-educated young women as nurses. If she could have enough graduates to teach the students they might have a three years' course. The previous standard of the School was not good, but they were now aiming to make affiliations with the University and to have a Faculty of Nursing in the University. They had had some withdrawals from the School because the students had not anticipated that there would be so much practical application of their studies. Fresh applications had, however, been received, and if they could have well-qualified nurses to act as teachers they could develop the training of nurses in Bulgaria. They had gathered together a group of students who were responding delightfully and heartily to the training they received; further, the idea of a National Association was not new to them. She had asked her students whether she should come to this meeting and they had bidden her do so, and charged her with the message that they much appreciated the interest of the International Council of Nurses in Bulgaria and hoped the meeting would be most successful.

The difficulties with which she had to contend were great, but the spirit of the people with whom she was working was delightful.

THE HON. VICE-PRESIDENT FOR SERBIA.

The President said:—

MISS ENID NEWTON,—We are well aware that your creative work is to be admired, and that the European Council, in electing you its President, made an excellent choice. We invite you to become the Hon. Vice-President for Serbia in the International Council of Nurses, and we hope you will work on to get the full course of training adopted in Serbia, and that it will soon have a National Council of Nurses which can enter into full membership with the International Council.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)