

a request from the County Council to consider the question of co-operation with the Devon Nursing Association, with a view to economy and greater efficiency in the work of nursing in the schools.

Miss Bere said that some years ago the nurses had charge of the schools, and it was an utter failure, the reason being that out of 170 nurses employed in the county only twenty were trained. They could not give the necessary attention to the schools because their time was fully occupied.

Mr. T. Batting dissented, and said that the County Council were very keen that the services of the district nurses should be utilised for nursing in the schools. The 170 nurses were costing the county £3,400 a year, and the twenty health visitors £4,000. The Council thought the number of district nurses should be increased, and of health visitors decreased. He moved that the question be referred to the Medical Sub-Committee for report, and this was eventually agreed.

We hope the Medical Sub-Committee will recommend that the nursing in the schools shall be in charge of registered nurses. It appears incredible that any other persons, whether untrained nurses or health visitors, should be entrusted with this responsible national duty.

The National League of Nursing Education, U.S.A., recently held its Twenty-ninth Annual Convention at Swampscott, Mass. A splendid programme had been prepared.

We wish some educationalist would ship our reactionary G.N.C. across the ocean, so that they might attend such a meeting, which was educative in the highest degree. Let us hope they would return in a chastened frame of mind!

Miss Berjlot Larsson, the President, has sent a cordial invitation from the Norwegian Council of Trained Nurses to a representative of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland to attend a great Scandinavian Congress of Nurses, which will take place in Christiania from August 6th to 10th, as an honoured guest. About 1,000 participants are expected from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. It would be a delightful opportunity of coming into contact with our colleagues in these countries, and of seeing Norwegian hospitals and institutions.

The Norwegian Council of Trained Nurses is a very democratic body, with whom it would do us all good to come into touch.

THE INTERNATIONAL IDEA.

The essential idea for which the International Council of Nurses stands is self-government of nurses in their associations, with the aim of raising ever higher the standards of education and professional ethics, public usefulness, and civic spirit of their members. The International Council of Nurses does not stand for a narrow professionalism, but for that full development of the human being and citizen in every nurse, which shall best enable her to bring her professional knowledge and skill to the many-sided service that modern society demands of her.

Next year it will be a quarter of a century since the foundation of the International Council of Nurses, and the younger generation of nurses may not all recognise its significance, or be familiar with its history. We realise this on reading an article in *The World's Health* (a monthly review published by the League of Red Cross Societies) by Miss Katherine M. Olmsted, who through membership of the American Nurses' Association is herself a member of the International Council of Nurses.

International Council, Founded in 1899.

We owe our International Council of Nurses, its inspiration, the broadening of the outlook of so many nurses, the professional and social pleasure of its meetings and congresses, and its increasing power of usefulness to nurses all the world over, to the prevision, acute mind, and constant thought for the welfare of the Nursing Profession at large, which has characterised the professional work, and nobility of purpose, of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick for the last forty years.

It was at the Annual Conference of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, held in London on July 1st, 1899, during the Congress of the International Council of Women, when representative nurses were present from the United States of America, South Africa, New Zealand, Holland and elsewhere that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick spoke on the International Idea, and of the strength which can alone be obtained by union. "This union," she said, "has been commenced in this country and in the United States. It remains for the nurses of other lands to follow our example, and unite among themselves; but I venture to contend that the work of nursing is one of humanity all the world over, and it is one, therefore, which appeals to women of every land without distinction of class, or degree, or nationality. If the poet's dream of the brotherhood of man is ever to be fulfilled, surely a sisterhood of nurses is an international idea, and one in which the women of all nations, therefore, could be asked and expected to join. The work in which nurses are engaged in other countries is precisely the same as that in our own. The principles of organisation would be the same in every country, the need for nursing progress is the same for every people, and my suggestion briefly is, therefore, that we should here, and to-day, inaugurate an International Council of Nurses, composed of representatives of the Nursing Councils of every country, a body

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