

23 countries from Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Australasia met in professional Conference and Social intercourse, and no one present then, or at the previous Congresses in London, Paris, Berlin and Buffalo will ever forget their inspiration or doubt the power of the International Council to meet the needs of nurses.

Our first Hon. Secretary, Miss L. L. Dock, to whom the Council owes an immeasurable debt of gratitude, wrote at that time:—

"Our leaders point the way, and each member gives of her experience and knowledge. We learn from one another, and take home fresh material of worth and use. Vigorous natural growth is then seen on all sides; inspiration is contagious, and in spontaneity and freedom is the security that our work as professional women shall not be fettered and trammelled, nor cast in shapes of rigid formalism and of timid subserviency. Immense is the courage and reassurance gained in co-operation. Well was it said by an American patriot in a time of trouble: 'If we do not all hang together we shall all hang separately.' So would it undoubtedly be in our work of building up the science of health nursing; still more in our defence of good standards in sick nursing. Were it not for the links which unite us together, and which enable us to draw upon the fortitude of all, progress would halt or cease altogether.

"It is easy to see why the enemies of women's higher advance seek first of all to keep them isolated from one another, to throw barriers around and between, to choke free union among women. But the day is gone past when that can be successfully done. Having once learned to know one another, and to share aspirations and ideals in work, women will never again consent to give up the joy of co-operation with one another in the furtherance of those ideals."

Since 1912 the International Council has convened no Congress. That arranged to be held in San Francisco in 1915 was prevented by the Great War, and only business meetings were held in Atlanta in 1918 and in Copenhagen in 1922. In 1925 we hope to have the joy once again of one of these great International gatherings in Helsingfors.

Articles inspired by the League of Red Cross Societies are appearing in the public Press in this country which, in my opinion, foreshadow a desire for the absorption of the Professional Nurses' International Organisation by the League of Red Cross Societies, which is not a professional, but a social organisation governed by the laity. Any such attempt to deprive the International Council of Nurses of self-determination would naturally be opposed by those National Councils which realise the danger to independence and self-government which would inevitably result.

As I have shown, the most friendly co-operation is permissible under the constitution of the International Council of Nurses with all International Organisations working for the betterment of the Public Health, such as the League of Red Cross Societies, the International Congress on Tuberculosis, and the International Social Hygiene Con-

ference, which are all doing useful work; but, with Miss Lavinia Dock, I consider that it is entirely through the strength and prestige of professional organisation that our nurses reach the position, dignity, and influence which enables them to be useful in mixed organisations.

Any policy of fusion with lay-controlled organisations would rapidly submerge our great Professional International Council of Nurses and render it useless as the Nurses' voice in the affairs of humanity.

MARGARET BREAY, S.R.N.
(Hon. Treasurer International Council of Nurses.)

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

At a meeting of the General Nursing Council for Scotland, held at 13, Melville Street, Edinburgh, on July 6th, 1923, the recommendations of the Uniform Committee were considered. It was resolved that subject to the consent of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the Uniform to be adopted should be the same as that adopted in England, with the following exceptions:

Buttons to be bone, plain black.

Hat trimming to be navy blue ribbon without any woven badge.

Details in regard to the supply of material, &c., will be published later.

The Council decided to adhere to their previous resolution in regard to the letters to be used to designate a Nurse on the different parts of the Register, namely:—

R.G.N. .. Registered General Nurse.

R.M.N. .. Registered Mental Nurse.

R.N.M.D... Registered Nurse for Mental Defectives.

R.S.C.N. .. Registered Sick Children's Nurse.

R.F.N. .. Registered Fever Nurse.

The Council considered a proposal to adopt the letters proposed to be used in England to designate a Registered General Nurse (S.R.N.), but considered that these were not desirable as a Nurse on any supplementary part of the Register might be equally entitled to style herself a State Registered Nurse.

The following resolutions were adopted in regard to the issue of the Badge:—

(1) That the design previously decided on (a St. Andrew Cross in white on blue enamel with a silver border containing in raised letters the words "Registered General Nurse," "Registered Male Nurse," or as the case may be), be adhered to, with the addition of the word "Scotland" below.

(2) That the offer of Messrs. Brook & Son, Jewellers, 87, George Street, Edinburgh, to supply the Badges in Silver at a price of 4s. 6d. be accepted.

(3) That the Badge be obtainable from the above Firm by a Nurse on receipt of a voucher to be issued by the Registrar to each Registered Nurse.

(4) That on the back of the Badge there should

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