

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

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AMERICAN NURSES IN EUROPE.

Mrs. Fenwick said that a great wave of organisation through the American Red Cross had been one outcome of the war. Schools of Nursing had been established in various European countries, and in Paris plans for the new Training School under American auspices were developing rapidly. Major Julia Stimson, the head of the American Army Nurse Corps, had had leave of absence from Washington to help to inaugurate it, and before she left Paris in May contracts were signed which would enable building and other plans to materialise at once. During Major Stimson's visit she and Miss Walker visited Bordeaux to obtain Dr. Hamilton's advice on plans, and to see if there were any way in which they could help forward her plan for the new hospital. It seems to be a question which corner-stone will be laid first, that of the new hospital at Bagatelle or that in Paris.

Recently the European Council for Nursing Education had been formed by supervisors of pioneer nursing schools in European countries where trained nursing was in its infancy. We must sympathise with, and interest ourselves in, the good work of this organisation.

NURSING IN HOLLAND.

The Council had the pleasure of welcoming to its deliberations two Dutch nurses, members of "Nosokomos"—Sister Verhagen and Sister Van den Berg. In Holland the nursing position was analogous to our own. There was the Dutch Nurses' Association, Nosokomos, composed, as our National Council is, of self-governing professional nurses, federated with us in the International Council of Nurses; and the "Bund," organised on the basis of lay and medical control, with which were associated some of the Matrons, much on the lines of the College of Nursing, Ltd., so that Dutch nurses—who thoroughly appreciated the situation—would have a good deal of sympathy with their English colleagues, with which statement the Dutch Sisters smilingly agreed.

PROGRESS IN THE IRISH FREE STATE.

Miss A. Carson Rae spoke on the work of the Dublin Metropolitan School of Nursing. Twenty-five years ago, she said, Miss Huxley had first started the School, lectures were given and examinations held.

In reference to the Syllabus of Training and Education, framed and approved by the first General Nursing Council for England and Wales, it was recommended to the Irish authorities, and they obtained it. She understood they were not going to make it compulsory in England, but they had adopted and were working it in Ireland at the present time.

The Metropolitan School had been reorganised, and different sets of lectures were given every night in the week, two sets to probationers in their first year, two to those in their second year of training, and two to third year pupils. Practical examinations were arranged by Matrons. They were working away on the Syllabus in preparation for the first examination, which it was hoped might be held next year. There was strenuous teaching going on, and a healthy sense of rivalry between the teachers and probationers in the various hospitals. "Whilst you have discarded the Syllabus in England," said Miss Carson Rae, "we in Ireland have adopted and are working it." (Hear, hear.)

The President said that in this country the cart had been put before the horse. A Syllabus of Examination had been approved by the timorous new General Nursing Council, and the Minister of Health, while there was no compulsory Syllabus of Training on which to teach the probationers to fit them for examination! A most illogical position. In spite of the right to "prescribed training" in the Registration Act—it was still "go as you please" in the so-called Nursing Schools in England, a situation for which the Chairman and General Nursing Council were entirely to blame, as the Matrons and managers of the general and special schools, were quite prepared to adopt the Syllabus and encourage educated women to train as nurses. The Medical Chairman of the G.N.C. was not in touch with modern nursing ethics and education, and assumed a very serious responsibility in denying the right to a "prescribed training" to future nurses. A strenuous campaign was in preparation to claim for probationers the privileges granted to them by Parliament. Nurses training in the Irish Free State were to be congratulated upon the energy of their Matrons and upon the attitude of both Matrons and hospital authorities towards nursing education.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES AT COPENHAGEN.

Mrs. Fenwick then laid before the Council the correspondence which had taken place between her and the Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, relating to the draft Agenda for a meeting of the Executive Committee to be held in Copenhagen on July 30th to August 1st, and gave the outline of the programme suggested for consideration.

Discussion ensued and two resolutions were unanimously agreed:—

(1) In support of sympathetic co-operation but no fusion with non-professional bodies, as it was entirely through the strength and prestige of professional organisations that trained nurses reach the position, dignity, and influence which enables them to be useful in mixed organisations.

(2) That strict recognition of the autonomy of National Associations federated in the International Council of Nurses must be scrupulously

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