

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

The second "Bulletin" of the International Council of Nurses has now been issued, and as the organ of the International Council of Nurses in Great Britain, we have pleasure in reprinting therefrom a letter to the Members of the International Council of Nurses from the late Hon. Secretary, Miss Lavinia L. Dock, R.N. We agree with every word Miss Dock says, and we hope that nurses in Great Britain and Ireland will read this letter carefully, and take it to heart:—

LETTER FROM MISS LAVINIA L. DOCK.

TO OUR MEMBERS:

The post-war time we are in is one of change, fluctuation, growth undoubtedly, and also destruction, suffering, and even despair for great masses of people. Those who have always believed in the saving graces of human nature have perceived a special abundance of such redeeming and saving gifts in the women of the race. We feminists, looking abroad over the earth, seeing the destructive and terrible results of unmodified male rule, are convinced that the only hope for civilisation lies in the advance of women to places of power in the executive and administrative groups which govern our world and control its destinies. We thus claim, earnestly and urgently, the pressing need of EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN WITH MEN in all departments of life, beginning with the first and going through to the last—from the home to the Parliament.

To attain this fullness of development we had to have the ballot. We have this now, over large sections of the earth, and by its use we must attain Equal Rights in law and in custom.

Every country has its group of advanced feminists working toward this end. Some countries have already placed Equal Rights in their constitutions, and there the advanced groups are striving to embody the new constitutions in the realities of everyday life.

I hope that the nurses of every country will support—at least, with their moral courage and their verbal declarations and resolutions—this high and even holy cause. It would be too sad if our profession, which owes its own existence to a precisely similar effort, should forget the manner of its own birth, and should take the timid, conservative, conventional view of those who oppose women's equality and the exercise of women's influence and authority in world affairs.

And, until at least this complete equality shall have been gained, let us not forget that our own nursing associations must remain self-governing, if we wish *not* to see them disrupted. No voting power in association matters should rest in any hands but those of nurses. Absolutely fatal would it be to give men, or society women, or lay philanthropists, however worthy, that "inch" of entrance which would mean the final taking of the proverbial "ell."

The countries where nursing stands highest are those where the power of men to control nursing conditions is the least. The countries where it is most degraded are those where men's control is the greatest. We must remember this, and be vigilant, that we may best help our sisters in the backward countries to come forward.

LAVINIA L. DOCK,

Late Hon. Secretary,
International Council of Nurses.

TRIENNIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES AT HELSINGFORS, FINLAND, 1925.

Miss C. Reimann, Hon. Secretary of the I.C.N., gives the following interesting and useful information as to the arrangements for the meeting in Helsingfors next year.

THE TRIENNIAL MEETING OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF THE I.C.N.

The Congress in Helsingfors, Finland, 1925, will probably be held in the month of July. It is hoped that 1,500 to 2,000 nurses from 30 to 35 countries will attend. Several eminent men and women interested in nursing, sanitation, education, and different social questions will be invited to present papers, and the widest discussion will be encouraged. The language used will, in general, be English. *The large meetings of the Congress* will be open also to guests, who are interested in nursing questions without being nurses themselves. *The Business Meeting of the "I.C.N."* will be arranged for in connection with the Congress. It will be a meeting of the "Grand Council," whose members all have voting power. To eliminate possible misunderstanding, I shall quote a part of the present Constitution:—

"The Grand Council shall be composed of four delegates from each National Council of Nurses and the Honorary Officers." The Honorary Officers are:—

(1) A President.

(2) Hon. Presidents. A President of the International Council having held the office for a full term, may be made, upon retiring, Hon. President of the Council, with a vote on the Executive Committee and Grand Council for life.

(3) Vice-Presidents. The Presidents for the time being of National Councils of Nurses affiliated to the International Council shall hold the position of Vice-Presidents.

(4) Hon. Vice-Presidents. In all countries where a National Council of Nurses is not already organised, or federated with the International Council, some representative Nurse shall be elected by the Executive Committee to represent her country as Honorary Vice-President of that country in the International Council until such time as a National Council shall be fully organised and eligible for membership in the International Council.

(5) Councillors. The Councillors shall be the Foundation Members of the International Council of Nurses.

(6) An Honorary Treasurer.

(7) An Honorary Secretary.

Following national organisations are at present affiliated with the International Council:—

(1) The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

(2) The American Nurses' Association.

(3) Berufsorganisation der Krankenpflegerinnen Deutschlands, Germany.

(4) The Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses.

(5) The New Zealand Trained Nurses' Association.

(6) The Trained Nurses' Association of India.

(7) Nosokomos, Holland.

(8) Dansk Sygeplejerskab, Denmark.

(9) Sjukskoterskeforeningen, i Finland

(10) Norsk Sykepleierske-Forbund, Norway.

(11) The South African Trained Nurses' Association,

(12) The Nurses' Association of China.

(13) Federation Nationale des Infirmieres, Belgium.

(14) Associazione Nazionale Italiana Tra Infermiere, Italy.

The Hon. Presidents* represent following countries:—

* There is here a small error; the Hon. Presidents are ladies who have held the office of President of the I.C.N. for the full term. The ladies representing the countries enumerated here are Hon. Vice-Presidents.

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