

NURSES OF NOTE.

MAKERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Amongst the Foundation Members of the International Council of Nurses, none has a more honourable record, or is more universally esteemed, than Miss Margaret Huxley, who was present on the platform at the meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, as one of its Vice-Chairmen, in 1899, when the International Council of Nurses was founded, when she supported the Resolution proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, "That steps be taken to organise an International Council of Nurses." She was also present on the following day, at the meeting held at the Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, when the Provisional Committee of the I.C.N. was constituted, and at the Meetings of Council, held in Berlin in 1904; in Paris in 1907; in London in 1909, when, at the Inaugural Meeting, in the ceremonial admission of the National Councils of Holland, Finland, Denmark, and Canada to affiliation, she offered the welcome of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland (the hostess Council) to the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses.

Miss Huxley was trained and certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, but her professional life subsequently has been spent in Ireland, for many years as Matron of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin, and at present as Matron of Elpis Home Hospital. She is a recognised pioneer in the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland in all that concerns the welfare of nursing and nurses, her opinions are received with respect, and her wise judgment, business ability, and clear insight always command confidence. She has been President of the Irish Nurses' Association and of the Irish Matrons' Association (holding the latter office at the present time), was the Founder of the Dublin Metropolitan Technical School for Nurses, and a member of its Governing Body. The object of this institution was to act as a Central School which all Hospitals and Training Institutions were invited to join, in order to provide systematic teaching and uniform examinations, to supplement the practical training given at the General Hospitals. After the passing of the Registration Acts in 1919, when Miss Huxley entertained the members of the Irish Matrons' Association at dinner in celebration of the event (a pleasure which she said she had promised herself for at least 20 years, and probably longer), she advocated such organisation in the future. Referring to the fact that the Minister of Health for England and Wales (the Right Hon. Christopher

Addison, M.P.) had urged nurses to be citizens first, and professional women after, she said, "That I take as a distinct call to us to help our Minister of Health with all our might, we are to be his help-mates, and, in order to stand in that important position, we must at once see to our education; that, as a professional body, we are suitably educated to help him in making the Nation healthy and strong. I think the Irish Matrons' Association should take the matter in hand at once, and plan a scheme for lectures in sanitation, hygiene, preventive medicine, and child welfare, and also lectures giving a working knowledge of the various Acts of Parliament affecting public health.

"One of the first essentials in such a scheme is that we should try to work together for the common good, not one training school against another, and this, I think, can most effectively be done by co-operation. A central school where the best lecturers obtainable can be engaged, and the necessary appliances secured to benefit all alike."

The work of the Dublin Metropolitan Technical School for Nurses, which is now over 30 years old, has accordingly been continued, and has grown considerably, this year there being a large attendance of over 100 pupils.

In recording Miss Huxley's work for the Nursing Profession and the public, we must not forget how often she attended meetings and took part in deputations in London, always at her own expense, often at great inconvenience, and, during the war, when crossing from Dublin to Holyhead certainly meant very considerable risk to life, a risk she did not hesitate to take from the high sense of duty which has always characterised her actions.

Those who attended the Nursing Conference held in Dublin in 1913, convened by invitation of the Irish Nurses' Association, an affiliated Society of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, on its behalf, will remember that, as President of the I.N.A., Miss Huxley was President of the Conference during that delightful

and inspiring week, and the high professional and ethical tone, which, under her guidance, characterised all its deliberations.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON HEALTH INSURANCE.

The Royal Commission on National Health Insurance announce that they will commence to hold meetings for the hearing of evidence in October next.

Any persons or bodies desiring to give evidence should in the first instance communicate *in writing* with the Secretary of the Commission, Mr. E. Hackforth, at the Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W.1, stating the main heads of the evidence they desire to submit.



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