

INTERNATIONAL NEWS.

On all sides we hear of great interest in the Meeting and Congress of the International Council of Nurses, to be held in Helsingfors in July, 1925, and of many friends old and new—those who have "got the Congress habit" and those who have not yet attended one of these most inspiring Congresses, who hope to be present.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME FOR THE MEETING AND CONGRESS OF THE I.C.N., HELSINGFORS.

A Draft Preliminary Programme has now been received by the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland for criticism and suggestions. It is proposed that the week beginning on Monday, July 20th, and ending on Saturday, July 25th, shall be Congress week.

MONDAY, JULY 20TH.

Registration, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting, 10—12 p.m.

Grand Council Meeting, 2—5 p.m.

Musical Service in one of the Churches, 2—4.30 p.m.

Opening Session—8 p.m. Baroness Mannerheim (President) presiding.

Address of Welcome. Representative of Helsingfors City Council.

Response—Baroness Mannerheim.

Addresses by Representatives of the International Council of Women, of the League of Nations, and by the Founder of the International Council of Nurses.

TUESDAY, JULY 21ST.

Business Session (Morning).—Welcome by the President. Report of Local Committee on Arrangements, Minutes, Reports of Hon. Officers and Standing Committees. New Business.

(Afternoon).—Reports of the Vice-Presidents (14 Countries), and Reports of the Hon. Vice-Presidents (10 Countries). Between the Reports lantern slides of Nursing in various countries will be shown.

General Session (Evening).—Introduction of new National Organisations, &c., and Short Talks by Councillors representing older National Associations on the International Council of Nurses.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22ND.

Round Tables (Morning).—"The Position of the Matron or Superintendent of Nurses." "The Duties and Preparation of Teachers and Supervisors." "Newer Developments in Child Welfare Work." "How to Start a Nursing School in a New Country." "Nursing under Government Auspices."

General Session (Morning).—Subject: "Administration and Teaching in Schools of Nursing." "Changing Objectives in the Education of Nurses." "What are the Essential Elements in a Nursing Curriculum." "The Relationship of the 'School of Nursing' to the Hospital."

The Afternoon will be devoted to visits to Hospitals.

THURSDAY, JULY 23RD.

Round Tables.—"The Nurse in Community Health Work." "New Developments in Curriculum Making." "School Nursing and Health Education in School." "How can Lay People best Co-operate with the Nursing Profession in Advancement of Nursing Education." "What are we doing to improve the Nursing Care of the Patient."

General Session (Morning).—Subject: "Public Health Nursing." "The New Emphasis in Public Health Nursing." "The Preparation of the Public Health Nurse." "Types of Organisation in Public Health Nursing."

General Session (Afternoon).—Subject: "Special Fields of Nursing." "What is the Future of Private Nursing?" "Should Nurses be Encouraged to take Midwifery Training?" "What Progress are we making in Mental Nurs-

ing?" "What are Nurses Doing for Social Delinquents?"

Open Meeting (Evening).—"What other International Organisations are doing to promote Nursing."

FRIDAY, JULY 24TH.

Round Tables.—"Post-graduate Courses in Hospitals." "Text and Reference Books." "How to Start Public Health Nursing in a New Country." "Nursing Economics." "Central Schools of Nursing."

General Session (Morning).—Subject: "Nursing Legislation." "Recent Progress in Nursing Legislation." "The Problem of Reciprocity." "The Educational Opportunities in the Inspection of Nursing Schools."

(Afternoon).—Grand Council Meeting.—Unfinished Business. Elections.

Round Tables.—"Subsidiary Groups in Relation to Nursing Service." "University Schools of Nursing." "Hospital Social Service." "How to Interest Young Women in Nursing." "How to Start a Nursing Organisation in a New Country."

General Session (Evening).—Subject: "Nursing Publications." "The Aims of a Professional Journal." "How to make a Journal Useful and Attractive." "The Business Side of Nursing Publications."

SATURDAY, JULY 25TH.

Morning. Boat Ride.

Afternoon. Social Gathering and Farewell.

Luncheons and Dinners may be arranged for different groups.

NURSING IN ICELAND.

Little is known about the history and organisation of Nursing in Iceland, and the following note in the *Bulletin* of the International Council of Nurses, by Fru. Christophine Bjarnhjedinson, President, Icelandic Nurses' Association, is of much interest:—

"Nursing in Iceland has never, in as far as we can trace it back in history, had any high standing. In the year 1402, a young woman, called Anna, lived here; she was the daughter of a serving woman, was fair and light-hearted, but was looked down upon on account of being an illegitimate child. From 1402 to 1404 the 'Black Death' ravaged our island. Anna offered to take care of the sick, and her assistance was accepted with gratitude, also in the homes whose doors until then had been shut for her. A woman, such as she, was apparently not looked upon as being too good to sacrifice herself for others. She did not take the disease and displayed great natural gifts for nursing, thus being enabled to accomplish much charitable work. She never asked for remuneration and received her food only in homes that could afford to give it to her. When it came to an end with the plague, nobody remembered the excellent nurse, and yet they did—but in a sad manner. She had taken from a contaminated home, where all had died, some clothes for her own wear. This could be proved, and they wanted her punished as a thief. It was done by stigmatising her cheek with a key and expelling her from the community. Thereafter she lived by begging.

"After the pestilence, hard times prevailed in Iceland; even in the monasteries and convents want was felt. Anna learned that a certain nunnery was in need of fatty substances, and as she had saved some old butter, having collected it through begging for a long period, she went to the nunnery and offered it for obtaining the remission of her sins. This was granted her as a return for her butter, and she was permitted to serve in the convent for the rest of her lifetime. In the old Icelandic annals, statements are found which tell about her gratitude for having escaped the plague and thus being able to take care of the sick, and also about her thankfulness for having obtained forgiveness for her sin. This is the oldest report on Nursing in Iceland.

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