

## NURSES OF NOTE.

## MAKERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

A notable maker of the International Council of Nurses is Sister Agnes Karll, R.N., President of the German Nurses' Association.

When the International Council of Women met in Berlin in 1904, a Session on Nursing was arranged, and the Officers of the International Council of Nurses decided to hold the Quinquennial Meeting of that Council at the same time.

At this meeting, before the opening of the Morning Session by the President (Mrs. Bedford Fenwick), Sister Agnes Karll, as President of the German Nurses' Association, welcomed the visitors from other countries. She said that nursing in Germany had been in the hands of the Religious Orders for 400 or 500 years, and the members of the German Nurses' Association had had a hard struggle to inaugurate the Society. It was like sunshine to her when she first received letters from Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Miss Dock telling her that the International Council of Nurses would hold its meeting in Berlin. It was a great pleasure to her to meet the nurses from other nations, and she felt sure the International Council of Nurses would be a great help to German nurses; she further stated that the Committee of the German Nurses' Association had authorised her to say it was ready to join the Council.

The nurses of other nations who came into personal contact with Sister Karll at Berlin, and again at the Interim Meeting in Paris in 1907, were impressed with the wisdom and effectiveness with which she was carrying on, in Germany, the difficult task of organising the "Free Sisters," and striving for the liberation of trained nurses, through the movement for better education, adequate pay, professional status and personal freedom.

When in 1909 the International Council of Nurses met in London, and it was necessary to elect a President for the next Triennial Period the Council recognised that Sister Karll possessed in a conspicuous degree the intellectual and organising ability, power of self-sacrifice, devotion to the interests of the Nursing Profession, and loyalty to the ideals—based on self-determination—of the International Council of Nurses, which would ensure that its interests would be in safe keeping in her hands, and she was unanimously invited to assume office as its President for the ensuing term, and accepted the invitation.

It was at the Banquet, which was one of the chief social

functions of the London Congress that Lord Amptill, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., who presided, in proposing the toast of "The President of the International Council of Nurses, and the Presidents of the National Councils," said it was extremely pleasant to welcome a lady who had done so much to raise the status of nurses in Germany as the President of the International Council of Nurses. Sister Agnes Karll had devoted herself, her energy, her brains, and her worldly wealth to the service of the Nursing Profession; she recognised the evils of lack of organisation, inadequate standards, and all those things with which we were so familiar, and set herself the task of remedying them. She was the friend and guardian of those who were cast

adrift in the change from the religious to the secular system of nursing in Germany. The great and statesmanlike work of which hers had been the directing mind, had been the formation of the powerful organisation which had secured from the Government valuable privileges for the Nursing Profession (State Registration of Nurses.—Ed.).

When, in her capacity as President, Sister Karll opened the General Meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Cologne on August 5th, 1912, and delivered her Address of Welcome, the historic Gürzenich was crowded to the walls.

Supporting the President on the platform were the Hon. President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the Hon. Officers, Miss L. L. Dock, and Miss M. Brey, several Councillors (Foundation Members), and official delegates from Great Britain and Ireland, Germany, and the United States of America, Canada, Denmark, Holland, India, and New Zealand; while in the audience were representative fraternal delegates and visitors from other countries (twenty-three in all being represented), including South Africa, Australia, France, Austria, Hungary, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Japan,

It was at this Session that Sister Karll expressed the view

that Internationalism would do great things for the peace of the world, in which work nurses would share. Unhappily in two years' time the Nations were convulsed in the horror of a world-wide war; but there is no nationality in Nursing, and the cord which binds the nurses of the world together though strained has held firm. While it was necessary to mark time for a while, each National Council carried on its own work, and the meeting of the Grand Council of the I.C.N. held in Copenhagen in 1922, proved that the constituent National Councils of the International Council of Nurses were eager to resume the intercourse and relationship which had been so great an inspiration in the first fourteen years of the present century.



SISTER AGNES KARLL, R.N., HON. PRESIDENT  
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

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