

NURSES OF NOTE.

MAKERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

When a venture has become an unqualified success the spade work done by those who made it so is not always recognised by those who come into the heritage gained for them. It is because we desire that the present generation of nurses shall know who have helped to build up the International Council of Nurses that we propose to give a record of some of our altruistic pioneers.

One of the inspiring personalities in this connection is Miss J. C. Child, who, as an Hon. Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses did so much to diffuse a knowledge of its aims amongst nurses in South Africa, and inspire them to form a National Council, which was received into membership of the International Council at Copenhagen in 1922.

Miss Child, who was trained at St. Thomas Hospital from 1884-1886, was subsequently Sister for five years at the Royal Sussex Hospital, Brighton. She dates her interest in the organisation of the Nursing Profession from an address given in Brighton in 1888 by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick on the aims of the British Nurses' Association, which she forthwith joined. She has had a varied and interesting professional experience, both of private nursing and in institutions, and it was in 1897 while on the staff of the Registered Nurses' Society that she gained her first experience of war nursing as a Nursing Sister in the Græco-Turkish War, and it was at that time that she first met Dr. Moffat, with whom she was later to be so closely associated in professional work and friendship in South Africa. When the Boer War broke out Miss Child volunteered for service, and was in Kimberley as a Sister in the Hospital throughout the siege. We gather something of what this implies from a paper contributed by Sister Henrietta, of St. Michael's Home for Nurses (to whom the State Registration of Nurses in South Africa is largely due) read at the meeting of the International Council of Nurses in Buffalo in 1901. Writing of the strain on their resources, she says:

"Every moment of my time was taken up in trying to spin out our wretched scraps of horse-flesh and our few ounces of milk in our own household, and I often had to send nurses to houses where food was so scarce I was terrified for them. If I gave them food when they came to the Home they would pocket it to take to the starving children where they were nursing. . . . At last, too, so many of the hospital nurses were ill that we had to send all we could possibly spare to

help there." Such were the conditions in Kimberley during the siege. In 1902 Miss Child was Matron for a time at the Bulawayo Hospital, but left to do transport duty on hospital ships, still conveying sick and wounded men to this country. From 1903 to 1907 she was Matron of the New Somerset Hospital, Cape Town, and after a year's furlough again returned to South Africa as Matron (Senior) on the staff of the Government Hospitals in Basutoland, from 1909-1921, during which time she was seconded for organizing the work of the South African Memorial to King Edward VII, the King Edward Order of Nurses; that being successfully organised she returned again to Basutoland.

In the Great War she at once volunteered for service, her experience of military nursing was again requisitioned, and she trekked with the camp hospital through the Kalahari with Berrange's Force. In 1915 she sailed for Europe at the head of the first nursing contingent from South Africa, and nursed both in England and France.

Throughout the whole of her career as a hospital Matron her aim has always been directed to obtaining for training a high type of woman, and as Sisters, nurses with teaching powers who would inspire those under them with skill and tenderness to the sick.

Miss Child has attended many of the meetings of the International Council of Nurses, including that at Copenhagen in 1922, at which she was present as the official delegate of the South African Trained Nurses' Association. Her winning personality, healing nursing touch, and high professional ideals made a deep impression in South Africa, where she is still held in deep respect by the Nursing Profession. She holds the Diploma and Medal of the Greek Red Cross, the Medal of the Boer War, the Mayor's Medal, siege of Kimberley, and is an Hon. Serving

Sister of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

SOUTH AFRICAN TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The South African Trained Nurses' Association is rapidly assuming very powerful dimensions in the Union, and its growing work is reported in its official organ, *The South African Nursing Record*. Its head office is in Johannesburg, and it has branch offices at Albany, Bloemfontein, East London and Border, Eastern Province Kimberley and District, Kroonstad, Natal (Inland), Durban (District and Coastal), Northern Transvaal, Rhodesia, Western Province, and Witwatersrand. An Association of Trained Nurses to be proud of, and which, we hope, will be well represented at Helsingfors in 1925.



MISS J. C. CHILD, S.R.N.
Past Hon. Vice-President for South Africa
International Council of Nurses.

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