

to assume that nursing has stood still during these perilous years. The truth is that it has been profoundly affected by the war. The tragedy which divided us has also served to bring us together again in many unusual ways and places, and unquestionably nursing has moved forward in its international relationships even though our international organisation was, for obvious reasons, unable to function.

Undoubtedly the mere fact that thousands of nurses from various countries were brought together in common work, and for many months moved about England, France and elsewhere, did much to bring about a fuller and more sympathetic understanding of each other's ways of thinking and working.

In the development by the American Red Cross of Schools of Nursing in Poland, Serbia, Bulgaria and other places, and in the International Course for Public Health Nurses at Bedford College, London, by the League of Red Cross Societies, in the generous stream of gifts for scholarships with which not only the Red Cross, but the American Committee for Devastated France and the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation have enabled nurses in large numbers and from many countries to take advantage of special educational opportunities, both in England and America, for gaining further knowledge of their work, there is plainly evident a desire to strengthen international relationships. The international spirit is vividly shown in the gift from American nurses to their sisters in France of the beautiful new building for the School of Nursing in Bordeaux.

Not less significant in their bearing upon the renewal and future progress of our international relationships are the changes in the nursing situation which are taking place within a good many countries. Long accepted ideas and systems are being subjected to a kind of scrutiny and revaluation which is new, uncomfortable, and probably wholesome. The field of nurses' work has enlarged steadily, the range of their duties and public responsibilities has widened notably, and the new demands which are made upon them will reach back naturally and inevitably into the Schools of Nursing in which they were trained, calling for whatever reshaping of their educational systems and practices may be needed. There are, of course, marked differences of opinion as to what changes shall be made, and how far they may be permitted to go, but making due allowances for all predictable forms of inertia and opposition, it seems certain that a good many alterations and advances in our Schools of Nursing will take place.

There are other problems to be considered, such as the good conduct and growth of our professional associations, the right legislative measures for the protection of standards of education and professional practice. These are all matters with which the International Council has been concerned in the past, with which it will be more fully concerned in the future. But the confusions and uncertainties of the moment make its task to-day a more difficult and perplexing one than that which was laid aside ten years or so ago. If we are to hold together as the professionally trained nurses of many countries of the world in helpful and strengthening association and good fellowship, we must be able in the words of England's great Prime Minister, to "differ without being hostile," and to find somewhere between the extremes of thought and opinion the best common working ground. But upon certain large and basic principles, such as those upon which the Council was founded, there is need for substantial agreement, since they are indispensable to our healthy growth and sound progress. The right advancement of nursing will only come through nurses who are free to determine the conditions under which they can best work and live. To help and strengthen nurses everywhere in their efforts towards such self-government is a great purpose of the Council, which should never be lost sight of."

#### LEAGUE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL NURSES.

The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital met in General Meeting, on December 6th, in the Anatomical Theatre, at the Hospital, under the shadow of the loss of its President, Miss Helen Todd, S.R.N. The chair was taken by Miss Annie Mackintosh, Vice-President of the League, and Matron of the hospital; who, before the business of the Meeting began, said that she was not qualified to speak of Miss Todd, but she knew enough of her to realise her great integrity of purpose, and the fairness of the way she had of looking at things.

Mrs. Lancelot Andrews said that she was privileged to ask the meeting to remember its late President. She did not want to say very much about her early days, but all remembered her as President of the League, the dignity with which she represented it on all occasions, and the tact with which she guided its deliberations. Mrs. Andrews spoke of Miss Todd's 15 years of work in the Civil Service, first as an Inspector of Homes under the old Local Government Board, and then in connection with the administration of the National Insurance Act. In 1918 she was lent by her own department to the Women's Royal Air Force. She found there dissension, chaos, intrigue, but her clear judgment enabled her to bear the brunt of those conditions, and she succeeded in combating them when many others had failed to do so.

She was one of the most loyal supporters of State Registration, and a keen suffragist. She thought two of the proudest moments in her life were when she was elected President of the League and when she was appointed a Governor of the Hospital. Generous hearted, under a shy exterior, she worked towards the higher evolution of Nursing—a very gallant gentlewoman of strength and beauty of character.

It was agreed with a rising vote, to send a resolution of sympathy to Miss Todd's sisters, and also to her friend, Miss Phillis Drysdale now, said Mrs. Andrews, fighting indescribable loneliness, with the courage which was just what one would expect of the chosen friend of Helen Todd.

The correspondence included a letter of sympathy from the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland to which the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses is affiliated, expressing its sympathy with the League in the loss of its President.

A letter was received from Lord Stanmore, Treasurer of the Hospital, acknowledging the receipt of a cheque for £138 14s. 10d. (the balance after the endowment of the Octocentenary bed by the League) and saying that the money would be invested in accordance with the wish of the League, and the interest applied as desired.

The question of a memorial to the late President was discussed and referred to the Executive.

The question of the editorship of the *League News* was discussed, the Chairman stating that the Executive would be pleased to have names sent in of those willing to undertake the task.

An interesting lecture was given by Mr. J. Paterson Ross, F.R.C.S., on "Impressions of some American Hospitals," after which those present adjourned to the Great Hall for tea and social intercourse.

#### THE REGISTERED NURSES' SOCIETY.

Members of the Registered Nurses' Society will like to hear that Miss Metherell, Matron of the War Memorial Hospital at Alford, writes of Sister Cartwright that a big Shetland shawl sent to her in their name as a Christmas gift, is just the kind of cosy wrap she wants, and that she brightened up at the pretty blue ribbon, of the colour she loves, that went with it, that all her wants are supplied, and that she suffers no pain.

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