

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

## Reports from Affiliated Countries.

In the absence of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, who was to have presided at the afternoon Session, her place was taken by Miss Margaret Huxley, Foundation Member I.C.N., President of the Irish Matrons' Association.

Miss Huxley, after expressing her regret that the Founder of the Council was detained in England by important business in connection with the rights of nurses, called upon Miss Helen Pearse to present the Report of the National Council of Great Britain in her stead.

## GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The outstanding feature of the Report of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland was that since the Meeting and Congress of the International Council of Nurses held in Cologne in 1912, Acts for the State Registration of Nurses in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, received the Royal Assent on December 23rd, 1919. That General Nursing Councils had been established in these countries (Northern and Southern Ireland now having separate Acts), that the period of grace for existing nurses had expired (or was about to expire) and that henceforth, before nurses could register they must pass a Preliminary and Final Examination held under the authority of the State, besides furnishing evidence of good character. It mentioned that the Syllabus of Training for pupils in the Nurse Training Schools was not at present compulsory, but a Select Committee of the House of Commons was then sitting to consider the Rules of the General Nursing Council with regard to this point, and, also, the scheme for the election of the Direct Representatives of the Registered Nurses. It detailed the Leagues and Societies which had become affiliated with the National Council since the Cologne Meeting, the most recent being the College of Nursing, Ltd.

It stated further that the Act for the Registration of Nurses for England and Wales had now been in force for over five years, and that at its meeting on June 27th the National Council adopted amendments providing that all duly appointed delegates from affiliated Societies, the Hon. Officers, and the Members of the Executive Committee, should be State Registered Nurses.

It concluded by stating that the activities of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland during the period under consideration demonstrate how useful an influence a forceful National Association of Nurses can play in the body politic.

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Miss Adda Eldredge, President of the American Nurses' Association, presented its report, and said that while nearly all nurses in U.S.A. belonged to that Association, there were also the National League of Nursing Education, and the National Organization for Public Health Nursing, each with its own special problems. The American Nurses' Association had now a membership of 50,000 nurses, a National Head Quarters, a full time Secretary, a Field Secretary and a Publicity Secretary.

## GERMANY.

Sister Agnes Karll, President of the German Nurses' Association, contrasted the conditions prevailing in the nursing world in Germany at the time of the Cologne Congress in 1912, and at present. For four years many nurses suffered from semi-starvation. The municipality paid fairly, others not so well, but the depreciation of the value of money caused poverty among nurses, added to which many of them had to help relations. Out of 348 Nursing Schools in Germany 34 were now closed. Hospital

nurses had four weeks' holiday in the summer, but they frequently over-worked before and after. Suicide and premature mortality were not uncommon. A Matrons' Course of two years had been established, the conditions of Nursing followed the general conditions.

## CANADA.

Miss Jean Browne, President of the Canadian Nurses' Association, presented its report describing its manifold activities. She gave its membership as 10,000, and said that Canada, which is the same size as Europe, had Nurses' Registration Acts in force in each province. An advance in Training School Inspection had been made in the last two years but only in Ontario was there Government Inspection by Registered Nurses. There had been improvement in living conditions, in teaching facilities, and in supervision.

A very recent development was that amongst French Canadian Nurses for association. This did not, however, mean cleavage but, rather, closer union.

University Courses had been established in British Columbia, there was a new School of Hygiene in Toronto, and in the past two years Refresher Courses had been established in connection with the university.

"Keep alive and progress," should be the motive power.

## DENMARK.

In the regretted absence of Mrs. Henny Tscherning, President, the report of the Danish Nurses' Association (founded in 1899) was presented by Miss Inger Nordentoft. It stated that the strongly expressed wish among Danish Nurses was for State Registration. The Association had a Sick Club, an Old Age Fund, and a Holiday Home. It had brought out a new text book for the training of nurses, Nurses applying for midwifery training could be subsidised by the State.

## FINLAND.

The Baroness Mannerheim, President of the Nurses' Association of Finland, said its Report was not a long one, because ever since it had known that the Congress would meet there all its energies had been directed to the necessary work of organisation. (We know, and are grateful for the result.)

## HOLLAND.

Miss Meta Kehrer, President of Nosokomos (the Dutch Nurses' Association), said that in 1924 Dutch Nurses obtained State Registration, and a Committee of Training had been established, General Nurses had been placed under the Department of Labour, and Mental Nurses under that for Home Affairs.

Recently Nosokomos had interviewed the Minister of Labour in regard to an eight-hour day for hospital nurses. It was also of opinion that the working system of private nursing should be changed.

It had found a weekly magazine most valuable.

## INDIA.

In the absence of Mrs. G. D. Franklin, President of the Trained Nurses' Association of India, Mrs. Patrick Chesney presented the Report, and represented one of the difficulties of nursing in India as that of the variety of languages spoken by India's 300,000,000, including Urdu, Pushtu, Punjabi, Sindi, Gugerati, Persian, and Arabic.

In illustration of the difficulty mentioned in the Report of getting well educated girls to train as nurses, Mrs. Chesney told the story of a superintendent to whom application for training was received on behalf of a young woman. The letter stated "she is not sufficiently educated for a teacher, not good enough for a Bible woman, nor pretty enough to marry. I think she might do as a nurse. Will you take her under your kind control?"

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