

work and for interviewing visitors. Constantly there are callers from various parts of the world asking for information, which is supplied to them by experts.

With the professional help gladly rendered in the various directions I have indicated, we have been able to keep well within our income—a self-supporting, self-governing, and therefore self-respecting, body of professional workers.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

After the Business Meeting of the Grand Council held in Copenhagen in 1922 the work of the Secretary of the International Council of Nurses increased rapidly, requests for information being received from many different parts of the world.

At the request of the Secretary some of the members of the Council gave financial assistance to the German Nurses' Association.

The report of the Executive Committee meeting in Copenhagen, 1923, and the reasons for holding this special meeting have already been read in the Minutes.

Early in November, 1923, the Secretary left Copenhagen for London, where she spent a month and had unusual opportunities for becoming acquainted with the nursing education and nursing conditions in Great Britain.

In December of the same year the Secretary paid a brief visit to the Headquarters of the League of Red Cross Societies in Paris, at the request of Miss Katherine Olmsted, the Chief of the Division of Nursing of the League, in order to facilitate co-operation between the League and the International Council.

The last week in December the Secretary landed in the United States of America, where she stayed until the latter part of June, 1925. A brief account of her work during this period will give some idea of the need for an international professional body of nurses to have an active headquarters.

I.—CORRESPONDENCE.

An average of 150 to 200 letters were received monthly and a similar number despatched, supplying information requested.

(a) Advice requested and supplied regarding nurses' education, and curricula for schools of nurses in countries in a pioneer stage as well as in a more developed stage.

(b) Information requested and supplied regarding nursing legislation in various countries and the possibilities for reciprocity and registration of individual nurses.

(c) Information requested and supplied regarding existing schools for nurses, the requests coming from organisations, institutions, and individuals.

(d) References furnished, upon request, regarding personality and professional ability of nurses applying for situations.

(e) Assistance given at the request of nurses from seven different countries in securing positions in other countries, an average of five to six positions being secured monthly.

(f) Information requested and furnished regarding insurance, superannuation, post graduate courses, scholarships, registries, translations, publication of books.

(g) A number of requests regarding articles for nurses' journals have been received and attended to, the articles being secured from various sources or written by the Secretary.

(h) Advice requested and supplied regarding passports, assistance being given in some cases to facilitate a prolonged stay in the United States.

Number of countries corresponded with: Europe 27, America 16, Asia 12, Australasia 3, Africa 2 (total 60).

II.—PUBLICATIONS.

A quarterly mimeographed publication called the *Bulletin* has been issued, and most interesting contributions have

been supplied by different national associations, as well as by a number of prominent nurses and persons interested in nursing, all of whom have co-operated with the greatest enthusiasm. This pamphlet has been sent to an ever-increasing number of nurses, beginning with 65 copies sent to 35 different countries and ending with 200 copies sent to 60 different countries.

Financial assistance from a few sources has rendered the issue of this *Bulletin* possible.

III.—COMMITTEES.

In addition to the routine work already mentioned the Secretary acted as Secretary to the Committee on Programme, the Committee on Eligibility, and the Committee on the Revision of the Constitution, and was also a member of the Education Committee of the International Council.

IV.—CONFERENCES.

(a) It was a great pleasure for the Secretary to attend the Biennial Meetings of the American Nurses' Association in Detroit, and the Canadian Nurses' Association in Hamilton, in June, 1924.

(b) The International Council of Nurses was represented by the Countess d'Ursel of Belgium, at the Nursing Commission of the Second Central and Eastern European Red Cross Regional Conference in Vienna, May 11th to 15th, 1925.

(c) The International Council of Nurses was represented by the Secretary at the Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council of Women in Washington, May 4th to 14th, 1925.

The aim of the Secretary during the past years has been to arouse interest among nurses in different countries, for the purpose of facilitating international co-operation, and to collect data about nursing education and professional problems, in order to supply reliable information, upon request, or for future publication.

Information has been obtained through interviews and correspondence, but more especially through two questionnaires, one of which was sent to the national organisations and the other to individual schools of nursing (where possible through the national organisations of nurses in the country or the registrar, otherwise through direct communication with the schools).

Satisfactory replies have been received to the first questionnaire from 45 countries, and to the second questionnaire complete information has been received from 30 countries.

Before closing this report the Secretary would like to express her appreciation of the very excellent co-operation she has received from the various countries, many of which have supplied her with most comprehensive information with regard to their nursing situation which has greatly facilitated her work.

The Preliminary Training School of the Association of Nurses in Finland.

Immediately after the Morning Session on Wednesday, July 22nd, motors conveyed a party of the delegates to the Preliminary Training School of the Association of Nurses in Finland, halting on the way to see a charming Orphanage, where the confidence and friendliness of the children toward the visitors spoke volumes for their training and happiness.

The party were entertained at the Training School to luncheon by the Baroness Mannerheim, the food being most daintily cooked and served. After lunch the guests were shown all over the School, and witnessed a demonstration of bed-making by pupils whose dexterity and skill commanded admiration. On the way out the guests were shown the demonstration kitchen, in the centre of which was a table filled with invalid delicacies prepared by the pupils. A patient would need to be very sick not to be tempted by such daintily prepared food.

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