

circuitous manner so far as the rights of Nurses in training are concerned, supported by the reactionary Secretariat at the Ministry of Health. The result is that the old inefficient system of training continues in some nursing schools recognised by it. Until the G.N.C. is governed by courageous nursing experts, instead of septuagenarian medical men, nursing will never become "a great profession," and women of intelligence will not be encouraged to make it their own, until the prestige resulting from personal responsibility is attached to it.

The autocratic attitude of the medical and lay directorate of the General Nursing Council is as futile as it is antediluvian.

The Training Schools need encouragement and financial support if they are to meet the enormously increased cost of evolution which the needs of the community for a higher standard of health demand. This the peddling policy of the present G.N.C. which costs the nurses £20,000 a year, will never visualise or effect.

In this connection someone must institute a pilgrimage pointing out to the right type of girl, the satisfaction of service. There really is no greater happiness in the world than to help to alleviate sorrow and pain, to prevent them needs all the intelligence the best brains can effect. "Poor Jane," the family failure, is no longer of any use in the higher standard of health campaign: we want the "pick of the basket."

A hospital Matron enlarging, with some complacency, in a contemporary, on her manifold responsibilities, enumerates amongst them, "I engage and dismiss nurses." In our view the power to dismiss a nurse should never be delegated. The Matron in cases of grave dereliction of duty or discipline should have power of suspension, and should report and make recommendations to the Board of Management, but only that authority, with whom the nurse's contract is made, and who are responsible for any consequences arising from the dismissal should perform it.

The Lady Superintendent of the Belfast Poor Law Hospital has asked permission that a dancing teacher may instruct the Probationers in the Recreation Hall for one hour per week. This seems an excellent suggestion, and the request has been granted by the Guardians. Half the pleasure of doing things is to know how to do them well.

The *Quarterly Journal for Chinese Nurses* contains an interesting account of the International Congress of Nurses at Helsingfors. In regard to the next Meeting place we read: "Before the time came to decide where the next Congress was to be held, there was great discussion about China's invitation *pro* and *con*, both inside and outside the Meeting, but when the hour came to decide, Miss Gardner, of U.S.A., moved they accept China's invitation, and it was seconded by Miss Kehrer, of Holland, and carried. (These two friends shall have good seats in Peking when they come.) I must tell you that China's delegates were weak with joy, and later went out to celebrate by having supper together at one of the restaurants. The *Journal* also records that Mrs. Hearn,

who was its Founder and first Editor, has been elected to represent Asia on the Publication Committee of the International Council of Nurses.

In the evening of October 2nd Miss Gage spoke to a crowded house at Union Hall on the work of the International Council of Nurses, after which a reception was held for the many friends who wished to welcome her back to China and to offer congratulations.

All the days and until late at night she was busy with correspondence, calls, committees, and plans and conferences with the Secretaries of the Association for the future work of the I.C.N. and the N.A.C. as related to it.

It will interest many of our readers to know that Mrs. Patrick Chesney, who returned to India shortly after the I.C.N. Congress, has since been on a trip to Kashmir, motoring there and back over a thousand miles. She has now taken up the duties of the Editor of the *Journal of the Trained Nurses' Association of India*, while the Editor is on leave for six months. In April next she and Major Chesney hope to come to England, which her many English friends will be pleased to hear.

It is good news that Miss M. A. Nutting hopes to sail for Europe at once. True, her destination at present is Italy, at which we cannot be surprised, but we hope that before she returns to America, her English friends will have the happiness of seeing her.

DISTINGUISHED CONGRESS MEMBERS.

Two distinguished Members of the International Congress of Nurses at Helsingfors, who closely attended the Sessions, were Miss Mary Gardner and Miss Meta Kehrer, whose portraits appear on pages 254 and 255.

MISS MARY S. GARDNER, R.N., A.M.

Miss Mary S. Gardner, who has been elected Chairman, of the Public Health Committee of the I.C.N., graduated from the Newport Hospital Training School, Newport, R.I., U.S.A., in 1905. She has been Director of the Providence District Nurses Association, Providence, Rhode Island, from that date to the present time but has been released for the following positions:—

Director, Bureau Public Health Nursing, American Red Cross, Washington, D.C., 1917-1918; Director, Nursing Division Tuberculosis Commission to Italy, American Red Cross, 1918-1919; Consultant Public Health Nursing in Europe, American Red Cross, 1921, five months; Consultant Director, Henry Street Nursing Service, 1924; Lecturer on "Public Health Nursing," Department Nursing and Health, Teachers' College, Columbia University, since 1920; Miss Gardner is the author of "Public Health Nursing," which has run into two editions, and is one of the standard books on this subject; she is a member of the American Nurses' Association, the League for Nursing Education, and the National Organisation for Public Health Nursing, Honorary President of the National Organisation for Public Health Nursing, and President of the National Organisation for Public Health Nursing, 1913-1916.

MISS META KEHRER.

Miss Kehrer is the President of the Dutch Nurses' Association, and, as such, attended and spoke at the meetings of the Executive Committee, and the Grand Council in Helsingfors, and of the Board of Directors at Halila. She also presided at a Round Table on "The Nurse in Social Service." She has vigour, youth and charm, and great earnestness of purpose.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)