

declared. Miss Gregory, Sister, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, being unanimously elected President, and Miss Stoker, Nurses' Hostel, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Vice-President.

#### Circular Letter sent to Doctors, Matrons, and Homes.

DEAR SIR,—May we ask your interest in the following matter concerning Registered General Nurses. As you are no doubt aware three strenuous years of work and study are required before Nurses can present themselves for the examination of the General Nursing Council.

Private work is taken up by a large percentage of Registered General Nurses, but they find that women partially trained or with only midwifery training are competing with them for work and charging the fees of fully-trained nurses.

In justice to the profession and more especially to the general Public who are the greatest sufferers, may we, the Executive of the Irish Nurses' Association, hope for your co-operation and help in putting an end to this unsatisfactory state of affairs, by asking you to employ only Registered General Nurses.

The argument often put forward in favour of employing these women is, that they are cheaper, but this does not always hold good as we know of several cases where the fees charged were higher than those charged by the Registered General Nurses.

*President:* ANNIE BUTLER, R.G.N.

*Secretary:* GEORGINA MACWILLIAM, R.G.N.

#### THE IRISH NURSES' UNION.

The Annual Council Meeting of the Irish Nurses' Union is being held this year on Friday and Saturday, May 7th and 8th, at 7 and 8, Eden Quay, Dublin, commencing at 10 a.m. on May 7th.

Resolutions dealing with the following subjects will be brought forward:—

Housing for Dispensary Midwives.

Rations and General Conditions of Service for Nurses in County Hospitals and Homes.

School Nursing.

Dispensary Midwives' Holidays, &c.

All members of the Union will be welcome, but only delegates and members of the Executive Committee and Officers can take part in the business and vote.

It is hoped there will be a large attendance, as the subjects to be discussed are of great importance to nurses generally. Senator Sir Edward Coey-Bigger and other speakers are being asked to address the meeting.

K. N. PRICE,

*Secretary.*

#### THE NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF CHINA.

##### THE BIENNIAL CONFERENCE.

The Conference was the best and largest the N.A.C. has ever held. Nearly three hundred nurses assembled from eleven provinces. Owing to the civil war raging in the North, the large number of delegates expected from Peking and the Northern provinces were unable to get through. Two-thirds of the nurses were Chinese men and women, so for the first time our own graduate nurses predominated. We were entertained by the faculty and staff of the University and Hospital at Nanking, the Chinese nurses being the reception committee for the Chinese nurses, and the English-speaking nurses for the foreign nurses.

The meetings were held in the beautiful Church Hall of the University, being handsomely decorated with bamboos, the emblem of the Association. Across the front, above the platform, hung the long red and gold banner bearing the text which has stimulated the faith of the Association for the past few years, "With God nothing shall be impossible." At the back of the platform was another large

red and gold satin banner, bearing the name of the Association, which was presented by the Chinese nurses in Fuhkien. On the reading desk yet another banner with the motto "Service" on it, in English and Chinese, made a bright spot of colour.

A very happy spirit pervaded the Conference from first to last, gratitude for the remarkable advance made during the last two years, and determination to go on with eager endeavour into the future.

The I.C.N. occupied a large share of the programme. Who will ever forget the graphic and thrilling report given by Miss Lillian Wu of her visit to Finland! "Finland, Helsingfors," was ever on her tongue, and she would not be satisfied until she had made all the Chinese delegates repeat "Finland, Helsingfors" clearly after her, in English, several times. Plans were begun for the great Congress to be held in Peking in 1929. At a side table were shown many pictures of Finland, the newspaper reports of the Congress, photographs of the delegates, an auto-graph photograph of the Baroness Mannerheim which was given to Miss Wu, also an album containing many Kodak pictures of the Congress. All through the Conference, groups of Chinese nurses were seen at the table looking at the pictures.

A report was given of the I.C.N. Education work by the President of the I.C.N. (Miss Gage, M.A., R.N.); also a paper was read by Miss Stephenson on our International Duties and Responsibilities. Internationalism was the keynote of the Conference, and our horizons lost their limitations. Great thoughts and visions of God's unalterable purposes for His world, and the share given to nurses in the working out of those purposes, filled our minds and thrilled our hearts. One evening we had a lantern lecture on Nursing History; another evening was devoted to Public Health, when our Chinese nurses gave reports of the varied work they are doing over the country, and Miss Simpson (the General Secretary), gave a paper on our plans for advance Public Health work. Yet another evening was devoted to interesting discussions, which arose out of the opening of the Question Box, questions concerning the administration of the wards, &c., &c.

Two very interesting papers were given on Night Duty, also one on the "Duties and Responsibilities of the Head Nurse," and another on "New Methods of Teaching Materia Medica"—three out of the four last papers mentioned being given by Chinese nurses.

Another subject which gave us great cause for gratitude and thanksgiving was the almost miraculous way in which the site of land needed for our Headquarters has been obtained. Truly here again we had proved that "With God nothing shall be impossible." After almost insuperable difficulties this site was obtained. With a debt of \$2,000.00 still facing the Conference that convened in Nanking, so much enthusiasm was aroused that an additional \$1,400.00 was given or pledged before the Conference adjourned.

Mrs. Todd (the Vice-President) was elected President; and Miss Lillian Wu was elected Vice-President. This caused great rejoicing as we have at last reached our goal and have one of our own graduate nurses in this high office.

Miss Stephenson (Chairman of the Programme Committee for the I.C.N. Peking Congress), with Miss Cora Simpson (one of the General Secretaries), are now proceeding on furlough. They will visit the I.C.N. Secretary in Geneva, also meet nurses in Paris, London and New York, and other places to discuss plans for the coming great Conference. We are planning and hoping to have a very large gathering of the world's nurses in the historic old city of Peking in 1929.

GLADYS E. STEPHENSON, S.R.N.

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