

## NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

### THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Mrs. H. M. F. Bowman, of Toronto, describing in the *Canadian Nurse* her "Lasting Impressions of the International Congress of Nurses" writes in part:—

"A point that made lasting impression on me was the reception of five new countries into the Council. A beautiful and impressive ceremony. Please read the report of this even though you were present to participate, and then just think how little we who graduated in the last twelve or fifteen years have done to gain an entrance into this august association of nurses. It was mostly done for us; therefore let us help others.

"I must close by referring to one or two outstanding features. First, that every nurse who reads *The Canadian Nurse*, others also, should read and learn by heart, and be able to quote, the preamble to the constitution and by-laws of the International Council of Nurses. That alone is a great incentive and must make a profound impression.

"Second, the impression made upon us by those associated with the International Council of Nurses as foundation members. We idolize and reverence them. Then again, those splendid women leaders, who have filled up the ranks from time to time, representatives from every country, women of such dignity and ability, that every possible honour was accorded them.

"The International spirit is desirable for many reasons, but especially so for the inspiration and enthusiasm it encourages, in addition to the interchange of ideas which is always beneficial to the welfare of not only those who give of their time and talent, but those who receive."

### THE REGISTERED NURSES' PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL.

It will be remembered that at the last meeting of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council it was resolved, in reply to a letter from the Minister of Health, to inform the Minister that the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council still maintain the right of probationers in training to a Scheme of Training *prescribed by Rule* before having to pass the Prescribed Examination under the authority of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and to again appeal to him to obtain an opinion from the Law Officers of the Crown on this point of such vital interest to the Nursing Profession.

The following reply, addressed to Councillor Beatrice Kent, President of the R.N.P.C., has now been received from the Minister:—

SIR,—I am directed by the Minister of Health to refer to your letter of the 26th ultimo, suggesting on behalf of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council that he should obtain an opinion from the Law Officers of the Crown upon the legal aspect of Section 3 (2) (a) and (b) of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, and I am to state that the Minister is not prepared to adopt the suggestion of the Council.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,  
P. BARTER.

The Minister's decision is much to be regretted. The Nursing Profession has a right to have the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown on this vital question, or to contest the position in which it is placed.

We hope that, in the future, nurses will be able, through the influence of their own self-governing College, to enjoy the privileges which Parliament has given them.

### THE REGISTERED NURSES' SOCIETY.

The audit to July 1st for the past year has just been completed of the accounts of the Registered Nurses' Society, which has been established since 1894, and it is very satisfactory to note that it has touched its pre-war record, and £11,488 11s. 7d. have passed through the books.

The auditor paid the secretarial staff the compliment that in inspecting the books "he had not had to look for a penny." The entire work, clerical and accounts, is, under Mrs. Fenwick's supervision, done by the secretary and one clerk, and the audit proves that it is well done.

This Society of Registered Nurses is entirely managed by nurses, and those who advance the excuse in managing their affairs that nurses are not ready to manage their own professional business would be wise to stand aside and give them the chance. Much better discipline is maintained by women in a women's business than by men, and this is to the advantage of all concerned.

The Sisters have continued to earn much popularity by their unselfish devotion to their patients, and as usual quite a number have during the year been tempted away by Cupid, and other acquisitive persons who can never see a good thing without desiring to possess it! Several have gone forth to see the world, a wise thing to do when one is young.

There will be vacancies for a few new nurses in the autumn, and interviews can be arranged for through the Secretary in September and October, at 431, Oxford Street, London, W 1.

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

A General Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses was held at the Hospital, London, E.C., on July 3rd, the President, Miss A. Mackintosh, R.R.C., C.B.E., presiding.

At the commencement of the meeting, Miss Mackintosh mentioned the appointment of Miss E. M. Musson as Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

She felt sure that all the members of the League were proud that the honour of being the first Nurse Chairman of the Council had been conferred on one of its members, and would wish to offer her its heartiest congratulations. This was warmly applauded, and Miss Musson expressed her appreciation.

On the proposition of the President, it was agreed by an uprising vote to send a message of much sympathy from the League to Lady Baddeley, Vice-President, whose absence all were regretting, in the great sorrow which had befallen her in the death of Sir John Baddeley, whose kindness to the League, when Lord Mayor of London, was in everybody's mind.

Miss Villiers, who had been acting temporarily as Vice-President, was elected to that office with much acclamation.

The Treasurer presented a Financial Statement, showing a substantial balance, and Miss Baines, Secretary, reported that there had been an addition of thirty-five new members during the year and seven resignations.

The members learnt with great regret of the deaths of Mrs. Dewar, Mrs. Macdougall, and Miss Banfield.

Mrs. Hayward presented the Report of the Benevolent Fund, which showed a satisfactory balance in hand, and at the Bank.

Mrs. Shuter, as Treasurer of the Isla Stewart Memorial Fund, reported that the Committee had decided that £15 should be placed with the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain to be earmarked to enable Miss Musson, Treasurer of the I.C.N., to visit the Office of the International Council of Nurses at Geneva at a convenient date.

Miss E. M. Musson then spoke of the International Council of Nurses and its financial needs, of its wonderful development since its foundation by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in 1899 at a Meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, so that it now included some 100,000 nurses. Until last year this great organization had been carried on on an income derived from a subscription of £2 per annum from each country affiliated, and the Royalties on "A

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