

the appreciation of the visitors of the courtesy of Miss Coates, and more still of her attitude to those in the Home. Miss Coates, with her kindly humour, and her very apparent courtesy towards her colleagues in the Home, has had no small share in making the Settlement Home a veritable haven of rest.

It was a real joy to meet those we had known personally, or by repute, for so long, and to see for ourselves that after strenuous and honourable nursing careers they have found in their latter days so happy a "Home of Evening Rest."

M. B.

#### SALE OF WORK.

The Annual Sale of Work will be held this year in support of the House Beautiful Fund. This Fund has proved exceedingly helpful in redecorating the Headquarters and Club, in providing the latter with articles of comfort and virtue and in keeping up supplies of plants and flowers. We hope to arrange for the Sale to take place early in December, and the Secretary will be grateful for any gifts which should be forwarded to her at 194, Queen's Gate.

#### CLUB FIXTURES.

As we go to press Miss Macdonald's "At Home" is taking place.

Details of the fixtures for October will be found on page i of our Advertisement Supplement. We look forward to a very interesting lecture by Major Rigg on the 16th; the details regarding the "Ramblers" visit to Romsey are not quite complete but Members can have these in the course of the next few days on application to the Secretary. We shall be glad to hear beforehand from those who intend to be present at the dance on the 30th.

### NURSES' ORGANIZATIONS.

#### THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The Annual Meeting of the Grand Council of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain will be held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 1, on Saturday, November 13th. The Agenda will be sent out in due course.

#### THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN.

A Meeting of the above Council will be held on Saturday, October 16th, at 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. 7, at 4.45 p.m., preceded by a Lecture on "The Origin and Growth of the British Empire" given to the Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association by Major Richard Rigg, O.B.E., at 3 p.m., to which the Association has kindly invited the Members of the Matrons' Council. Tea will be served at 4 p.m.

#### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL NURSES' LEAGUE.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 6th, at 3.15 p.m., at the Trained Nurses' Institute, Huntley Street, W.C. 1. The meeting will be followed by an "At Home." It is hoped that all League Members will make a special effort to be present.

#### LEAGUE JOURNALS.

We regret that pressure on our space forbids more than mention of several League Journals which have come to hand. Exceptionally excellent is that of the Bradford Royal Infirmary Nurses' League, with a Preface on "Nursing Overseas," by Mrs. Underhill, signed with the name by which she is better known, Lillian A. Starr.

## THE FOUNDATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES

*League News*, the official organ of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses' League, recently to hand, is an exceedingly good number, presenting to the members of the League up-to-date information in the Nursing World, as well as interesting items of special interest to the members. The list of members—upwards of 1,100—and their addresses makes for the solidarity of the League.

Under the heading of "The International Council of Nurses"—a synopsis of an Address given by Miss E. M. Musson at the Summer Meeting—there have quite inadvertently no doubt crept in some inaccuracies concerning the founding of the Council.

I want at once to controvert the supposition that either the International Council of Women, or our own National Council of *Women*, had anything whatever to do with the Founding of our International Council of *Nurses*.

Credit must however be given to Mrs. May Wright Sewall of the United States for the inspiration of internationalism amongst women.

*League News* states correctly that the Third Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council of Women was held in London in 1899, but adds, incorrectly, that "it was then at a meeting of this Nursing Section of the I.C.W. that the idea of forming an International Council of Nurses was first mooted." This is entirely erroneous, as may be proved from the Report of the International Council of Women, 1899 (*Women in Professions*, Vol. II), published by Messrs. T. Fisher Unwin. A meeting attended largely by members of the public would, in no case, have been a suitable occasion for discussing a professional question of this magnitude; and it was at the Second Annual Conference of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, on the following day, Saturday, July 1st, 1899, which was attended by many of the foreign nurses present at the International Congress of Women that, as Miss Musson stated, it was proposed by Mrs. Fenwick, and seconded by Miss Isla Stewart from the Chair, "That steps be taken to organize an International Council of Nurses."

A full report of the proceedings at this Conference was published in *The Nursing Record* of July 8th, 1899, which makes quite clear by whom, when, and where the International Council of Nurses was founded.

Until the Conference of the Matrons' Council on July 1st, 1899, my idea to suggest the formation of such an International Council of Trained Nurses for the benefit of humanity was kept a confidential matter, Miss Isla Stewart, and a few enthusiastic supporters alone having been consulted, owing to the inevitable opposition of the reactionary influence of the anti-registration Party, and the misleading statements of the commercial nursing press, so inimical to the self-determination and real interests of the Nursing Profession.

On July 2nd a meeting was held at the Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, attended by representative nurses both British and Foreign, a Provisional Committee was formed, and the members of the Committee present requested that the English Members would draft the suggested Constitution, that it should be sent round to all the International members so that they might duly consider it, and return it with their suggestions before the Constitution and Bye-Laws were presented to the Delegates in the following year for adoption. This was done.

Thus we planted our International Acorn. To-day, after a quarter of a century's devoted service by its pioneers, our magnificent International Tree spreads its beneficent branches, and fosters affiliated National Associations of Nurses throughout the world.

ETHEL G. FENWICK  
(*Founder I.C.N.*).

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