

## THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES. THE REPORT OF THE FIFTH REGULAR MEETING.

The Report of the Fifth Regular Meeting of the International Council of Nurses, held in Helsingfors in July of last year, is now published and obtainable from Miss C. Reimann, Secretary, I.C.N., 1, Place du Lac, Geneva. Price 3s.

The Report contains a record of the proceedings of the Executive Committee and the Grand Council, the Minutes of the Fourth Regular Meeting, held in Copenhagen 1922, and of the Executive Committee held in the same city in 1923. Reports of the Hon. Officers and Committees, and of the Board of Directors, held at Halila, Finland, after the International Congress.

The proceedings of the Congress are printed at length, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's paper, "The Trained Nurse's Part in Peace," presented by Miss Helen Pearse in the opening session, is printed in full.

The Reports from the fourteen Affiliated National Associations—Great Britain, the United States of America, Germany, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Holland, India, New Zealand, Belgium, China, Italy, Norway, and South Africa—form a most interesting and valuable record of the conditions of nursing and nursing progress in the respective countries, as do those of the National Associations of Bulgaria, France, the Irish Free State, and Poland, which with Cuba were affiliated during the Helsingfors meeting.

Reports from the Hon. Vice-Presidents of Greece, Japan, Jugo-Slavia, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey put the Council in touch with the position of Nurses and Nursing in those countries, and Armenia, Australia, Czecho-Slovakia, Esthonia, Iceland, and Latvia also contributed information.

Reports are also given of the General Sessions, the Open Meeting, when General Mannerheim, representing the Finnish Red Cross, and the League for Child Welfare in Finland, addressed the Congress before entertaining a large party of members at the Casino of Brandö, on a lovely island, to which they were conveyed by electric trams and brought back by boat at midnight, a never-to-be-forgotten scene of beauty.

Miss Jentie Paterson's lecture on Sir Frederick Truby King's method of Child Welfare work—"Newer Aspects of Child Welfare"—illustrated by lantern slides, which aroused so much interest, is also reported at length, and the discussions, and decisions (when taken) at the Round Table Conferences, which were much appreciated, but like the Congress Sessions required much more time than could be allotted to them, are also reported.

The Social Functions are briefly referred to. A volume to themselves would be inadequate to describe the delightful functions arranged for the pleasure of the delegates, but they will be an abiding memory with all who participated in them. The thanks of the Congress are incorporated in a series of Resolutions with which the Report concludes.

We note that a footnote to the list of Officers and Committees states that "The Foundation Members of the Council, the so-called 'Councillors' . . . were also Officers of the Council until 1925." In view of this statement, we desire to emphasise the fact that a Resolution stands on the records of the International Council of Nurses, providing:

"That all ladies who have accepted seats on the Provisional Committee of the International Council of Nurses, and by their sympathetic co-operation helped to found the Council, be elected Foundation Members of the International Council of Nurses, holding the title of Councillor, and having voting power in the Grand Council for life."

Moreover, the decision was made in Helsingfors that the Hon. Officers of the Council are the Hon. Officers in office in 1925, and these include the Councillors as well as the Hon. Presidents.

In view of this obligation, and as no National Council proposed to break faith with the Councillors, the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain have given notice that they intend to bring up the question at the next meeting of the Grand Council in China in 1929, when we hope it will be settled in an honourable manner.

The Report is bound in an attractive white cover, lettered in blue, and bearing the letters I.C.N. on a blue and white shield encircled in silver.

Now that the Official Report is published and the proceedings can be studied therein, we shall cease to publish full reports of the Sessions, but from time to time hope to publish papers and reports of special interest presented to the Congress.

### "THE I.C.N."

Under the title of "The I.C.N." the International Council of Nurses now publishes a quarterly organ, in accordance with the decision arrived at its meeting in Helsingfors, the first number of which is just to hand. In appearance it is similar to the Congress Report described above, and contains much interesting matter and information, as well as a number of interesting pictures, portraits of the elected officers and the Council. The first editorial is contributed by the President, Miss Nina D. Gage, R.N., M.A., who points out that "the founders of this Federation of Nurses realised that there are no national boundaries in the service of society, but that the fundamental needs of man are the same the world over—health of mind, body and spirit—if he is to do his work in the world. . . Health of mind, body and spirit is a very comprehensive term, but nurses all over the world are being asked to show people what it means and how to get it. It ramifies into all corners of life, and includes many lines of work not thought of years ago. Every year more and more demands are made of our profession. "The inspiration of finding that our problems are fundamentally the same the world over, differing only in details is very great. It very much helps us to better our individual work, and gives us courage to overcome our difficulties, instead of being overcome by them. as is so easy when one feels absolutely isolated."

As is fitting in the first issue, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Founder of the I.C.N., indicates in this number what has guided us in the past in the development of the International Council of Nurses through the Watchwords under which we have worked—Courage, Life, Aspiration—and emphasises that "no thought of material welfare prompted the foundation of the International Council of Nurses, but the aspiration that, in our effort to attain to the highest possible, we might be strengthened and might strengthen our sisters in other lands, by uniting in the promotion of a common purpose."

"The I.C.N." contains much of interest. We look forward with anticipation to future issues, and advise Associations affiliated to the National and International Councils to secure their copies from Miss Reimann without delay. The price is 4s. per annum for the four copies.

From "The I.C.N." we learn with pleasure that the Baroness Mannerheim who (as our readers know) had a serious accident while motoring in Stockholm in the early autumn, is now fully recovered. Within the very near future she hopes to leave for Paris, to spend a few months in the offices of the League of Red Cross Societies during Miss Olmsted's absence on leave.

At the New Year the Baroness received from the President of Finland the Badge of the Finnish "Vita Ros," for the splendid services she has rendered to her country.

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