

NURSES' ORGANIZATIONS.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

We hope that the members of Associations affiliated to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain will make a note of the date (Wednesday, February 2nd) of the Carnival Dance, organised by Mrs. Northwood, in support of the National Council of Nurses, and help to make it a great success by taking tickets themselves, and asking others to do so. These may be obtained (price, 3s. 6d.) from the Hon. Secretary, National Council of Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, W.1, Miss Isabel Macdonald, Director, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.1; Mrs. Northwood, 6, Nottingham Place, W.1; Miss Turner, 35, Devonshire Street; and the Plane Tree Restaurant, 106, Great Russell Street, W.C.

The Dance will take place at the Marylebone Hall, Marylebone Road, N.W.1. (entrance in Seymour Place), from 8 to 12 p.m., and Whist and Bridge Tables will be provided for those who do not wish to dance. Evening or fancy dress is optional, and prizes will be given for the most original fancy dresses, to be presented by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the Council. The Belgravia Orchestra will be in attendance, and refreshments will be provided by the Plane Tree Restaurant at moderate charges. Mrs. Northwood's talents in organising a Dance of this kind are well known, and the evening promises to be a great success.

LEAGUE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL NURSES.

The Winter Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses was held in the Medical and Surgical Theatre at St. Bartholomew's Hospital on Saturday, December 11th. The President, Miss A. McIntosh, C.B.E., R.R.C., was in the chair.

Arising out of the minutes Mrs. Ross reported that the American Sale at the Summer Meeting had realised £54 10s.; of this £20 had been allotted to the Benevolent Fund and £34 10s. sent to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, of which £24 10s. had been placed to the Emergency Fund of the National Council and £10 to the *per capita* contribution to the International Council of Nurses (as the proportion of the League subscription for 1926).

Under other business, the President brought forward the proposition that the League should start a country cottage. The proposal had not been made in time to be placed on the Agenda for the present meeting, but it would be down for discussion at the summer meeting.

Miss McIntosh also said that she was unable to notify her resignation as President on the present Agenda, and Miss Villiers, as Vice-President, expressed the thanks of the League to her for what she had done during her term of office, and wished her many happy years of leisure, and much enjoyment in the trip she is proposing to take.

Public Health Work in other Countries.

The chief interest of the afternoon's meeting centred in the lecture by Mrs. Maynard Carter, A.R.R.C., on "Public Health Work in Other Countries, from the Red Cross Point of View." Mrs. Carter is Directress of the International Courses organised by the League of Red Cross Societies, of which the Headquarters are at 15, Manchester Square, W., and which are concerned (1) with Public Health Nursing, and (2) with a course for Nurse Administrators and Teachers in Schools of Nursing.

Mrs. Carter said it was hardly possible to find words to express her feelings in coming back to speak about Public Health Work in her old Training School, where she realised how much she owed to the teaching of Miss Isla Stewart. She reminded her audience that the Red Cross was the symbol of compassion, and that organisation under that

name owed its inception to a Swiss gentleman, Henri Dunant, in 1863, the purpose of the societies formed under that symbol being the mitigation of suffering in war. In 1919 the League of Red Cross Societies was formed at the instance of Mr. Davidson, who realised the love and devotion brought out by the Great War, and the Red Cross Societies of America, Italy, France, Japan and Great Britain united to form the League. Its purpose was to develop through the Societies the promotion of health and the prevention of disease, as well as to afford relief in disaster.

In connection with the Nursing Division of the League, Mrs. Carter described the organisation of the International Courses at Bedford College, and said that the League of Red Cross Societies was appealed to to train nurses from the various countries in Public Health work, and a Course was established seven years ago, for the first year at King's College, and since then at Bedford College. In the Public Health Course the students are trained amongst other things, in Sociology, and in the second, for Nurse-Administrators, primarily in subjects which will enable them to go back to their own countries to take up institutional work.

The League believes that there is a need for Matrons to have a knowledge of Sociology, and that hospitals are not institutions existing primarily for themselves, but that they form part of the life of the community.

It is hoped that the second course will have much influence on the teaching of nurses in the various countries. Born teachers, said Mrs. Carter, are as rare as born nurses, and it means much hard study on the part of the students. In each section there are about twenty students, and one interesting effect of the Course is that National politics are forgotten during that year.

Mrs. Carter said that she had just been paying a most interesting visit to some of the League's old students in Middle Europe, where she spent six weeks, visiting Innsbruck, Vienna, Gratz, Warsaw (where an old student is now Matron of a hospital of 1,600 beds), Czechoslovakia (where another student is Superintendent of all the Health Stations). She also visited Finland, Latvia, and Belgium. The League of Red Cross Societies was undertaking an enormous responsibility in connection with this Course, and it was a big responsibility also for English Nurses in whose country it was located. No country had a bigger reputation in regard to nursing until 15 years ago; but, asked Mrs. Carter, Is our own Training School the best in the world? Are we keeping pace with modern developments; are we studying the nursing question from all aspects?

The Isla Stewart Fund awarded Scholarships from time to time. Would it not be a psychological moment when a Matron was appointed to give her a scholarship to enable her to study the Nursing Question in other countries? America was far ahead of us in the study of Nursing Education.

The President, in thanking Mrs. Carter for her interesting address, said that it must be a gratification to her that the Course, under her direction, was so appreciated, as some of its students had told her was the case. They were all units spreading the light when they returned to their own countries.

For ourselves we listened to Mrs. Carter's lecture with the deepest interest. It is now 35 years ago since we were deeply impressed by the value of International relations in nursing, which we have since endeavoured to promote, through the International Council of Nurses, and it was a great joy to us to listen to one of a younger generation advocating the usefulness of such relations, and describing the valuable work being done under her direction in this connection.

After tea in the Great Hall, always a most enjoyable ceremony, some of those present inspected the new block of the Nurses' Home, and admired its many admirable arrangements and conveniences.

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