

Miss Martha Mundt, representing the International Labour Office, spoke of this organisation, founded after the Great War for the promotion of social justice, and said that in whatever sphere of activity they were striving, working for universal peace and social justice would bring all classes closer together.

Mrs. Maynard Carter, representing the League of Red Cross Societies, Paris, brought the greeting of that League.

It was, she said, an honour and a responsibility to represent the great humanitarian movement of the Red Cross, which had been carried on for more than 60 years, and a privilege to speak on the same platform as M. Ador.

The League of Red Cross Societies was the clearing house, and heart, of Red Cross Nursing. The days were gone when Red Cross Nursing meant inadequate Nurses. The Nursing Division of the League always looked to the International Council of Nurses for its sympathetic help and hoped for the most intimate co-operation in the future.

Dr. Rénee Girod, representing the Swiss Alliance of Nurses, said that they had had the pleasure of working for two years in a friendly way with the International Council of Nurses. Although Switzerland was not rich they could offer the Council a habitat on the beautiful Lake of Geneva, and could regard one another as good friends.

#### MUSICAL INTERLUDE.

Here followed another Musical Interlude with lovely music from the same accomplished musicians.

#### THE RÔLE OF THE NURSE IN THE WORK OF THE RED CROSS.

M. Gustave Ador, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, gave a survey of its work in relation to Nursing, and said "it was not, however, till 1922 that the Tenth International Conference, held at Geneva, recommended National Societies to use their influence with Governments or competent authorities to make the exercise of the profession of paid nurse subject to the holding of a diploma. This diploma should be granted only to candidates who have completed a sufficiently long course of study and professional training."

"The Tenth Conference invites all Red Cross Societies to examine the question of employment of professional nurses for the needs of civil life, and to pay particular attention to the training of specialised nurses."

M. Ador further stated that "Since the war, the scientific training of nurses has been one of the chief cares of the Red Cross. Schools for nurses are becoming more numerous; most of the National Societies maintain one or several model schools, giving excellent preparation for the State certificate (which is happily being adopted in most countries). Besides the schools giving a regular training, we find short courses of various kinds which are extremely useful, and are attended by large numbers of pupils."

"I should now like to say a few words on the rôle of the Nurse. We are to-day far removed from the time when the chief work of the Red Cross ladies was to prepare lint. The complexity of modern instruction obliges the nurse to specialise. We have visiting nurses, in whom the League of Red Cross Societies takes much interest, infant and child welfare nurses, and so on. There are also the nurses who travel on horseback over the plains of the Far West; others who go in boats on the Pontine Marshes, carrying quinine to the sufferers from malaria; yet others who venture to the furthest confines of civilisation, Greenland or the great white deserts of Northern Canada, to open relief stations."

M. Ador concluded a most interesting address by conveying to the Conference the greeting of the International Committee.

The Session then terminated, a paper by Miss Clara D. Noyes, National Director, Nursing Service, American Red Cross, being deferred to a later session.

#### GENERAL SESSION.

Thursday, July 28th.

9.30 TO 12 NOON.

The First General Session of the Congress took place in the Salle Centrale, Geneva, on Thursday, July 28th. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Founder of the Council, and President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, presided. Before the commencement of the meeting Miss M. Huxley offered for her acceptance a sheaf of carnations, the gift of the Foundation Members present on the platform.

In opening the meeting Mrs. Fenwick expressed her very great pleasure at presiding. "The crowded and representative audience," she said, "was proof of the splendid growth and solidarity of the International Council of Nurses"; but, she added, "if not too early in the morning to moralise we should remember that we did not arrive at such purple patches along a pathway of rose leaves! But with courage and good will we arrived."

She then invited the President, Miss Nina D. Gage, to introduce the members of the Board of Directors to the audience, and as her name was mentioned each member of the Board came forward, and briefly conveyed to the Conference the greetings of her country.

It was a most pleasing and effective ceremony, and to the Members of the National Council present the Board of Directors are no longer merely a name, but a group of friends whom they have met face to face.

#### Work of the Board of Directors.

Miss Gage then made a brief report of the meetings of the Board of Directors, which had, she said, important problems to work out, some of which had been referred to Committees. When these Committees sent out Questionnaires to the Affiliated Associations she expressed the hope that they would answer them very promptly as the distances to which they had to be sent were in some instances so great that it necessarily took a long time to collect the information desired.

The Secretary had been doing a great deal of travel and hoped to continue this practice.

#### INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL TO FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

A Standing Committee had been appointed to consider the Nurses International Memorial to Florence Nightingale, which, agreed upon in Cologne in 1912, had been in abeyance owing to the Great War. The Directors had nominated Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Nutting, and Miss Lloyd Still for seats on this Committee.

As the Conference knew, it was decided on the invitation of the Nurses Association of China to hold the next meeting of the Grand Council, at Peking in 1929, and to organise a Congress at the same time. The Council had, however, been regretfully informed by the Executive Committee of the N.A.C., that in view of the peculiar and totally unexpected conditions with which hospital workers in China are now faced that the Chinese Nurses cannot carry the International Council of Nurses' Congress in Peking in 1929.

#### INVITATION TO MEET IN CANADA.

The Canadian Nurses Association had invited the International Council to meet in Montreal in July or August 1929, and this invitation had been accepted by the Board of Directors. It was reiterated by Miss Flora Madeline Shaw, President of the Canadian Nurses' Association, who was on the platform, and came forward to say what pleasure it would give to Canadian Nurses to have the Meeting of the International Council of Nurses in Canada in 1929. This invitation, and the decision of the Board of Directors were received with great applause.

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