

**THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.**

**THE INTERIM CONFERENCE.**

Friday, July 29th.

On Friday, July 29th, the morning was occupied with six round-table Conferences, carried on simultaneously in the Salle Centrale, and the Ecole Secondaire. In the afternoon, at the Salle Centrale, Dr. F. G. Boudreau, and Dame Rachel Crowdy lectured on "Various phases of the Work of the League of Nations," before the Conference visited the Palais des Nations. We hope to refer to these, in subsequent issues, as we are devoting all available space in our September number to the second General Session of the Conference.

**SECOND GENERAL SESSION.**

8.30 P.M.

On the evening of Friday, July 29th, the second General Session of the Conference was held in the Salle Centrale, Geneva, Miss Flora Madeline Shaw, President of the Canadian Nurses' Association, presiding.

**CO-OPERATION BETWEEN RED CROSS SOCIETIES AND PROFESSIONAL NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.**

The first paper presented in this Session was that by Miss Clara D. Noyes, National Director, American Red Cross Nursing Service, which, owing to the lateness of the hour when it was reached at the Opening Session, was held over. Miss Noyes, said in part:—

The names of two individuals of imperishable memory are irrevocably linked with the Red Cross idea and ideals—those of Florence Nightingale and Henri Dunant.

The history of Florence Nightingale and her great contribution to the world, as well as the history of Henri Dunant and his efforts to secure humane care of the sick and wounded in time of war, are so well known that little more than this brief reference to their epoch-making contribution is necessary. The former gave to the world the modern system of nurse education, and the latter the Red Cross idea. With time, however, the purpose and programmes of Red Cross Societies have widened until we find the more progressive ones supported by a large individual membership with Governmental charters, which make provision for them to render aid to the land and naval forces during war, as well as to assist in mitigating the suffering and distress resulting from great natural disasters, such as those caused by pestilence, fire, flood, earthquake,

windstorms, and for developing measures for the prevention of the same. If one were to compare even most casually the National Red Cross Societies of the countries represented by the National Active Member Associations of Nurses in the International Council of Nurses, one would find a most interesting but most diverse situation. It is true that the main principles and purposes for which the societies came into existence are practically the same. Yet we would find some of these societies, even though established by Governmental enactments, entirely removed from Government control, supported entirely from membership dues and voluntary gifts, with a vast network of chapters and branches extending to the most remote part of the country. In others we may find the Red Cross Society subsidised by the Government and acting for it in war or natural disaster. This type of dependence gives little opportunity for developing altruism and the spirit of helpfulness which follows when service to mankind is the primary activating motive and is dependent upon individual acts of sacrifice and service.

A society having as its main purpose assistance to the sick and wounded in time of war, requires at the outset a group of individuals prepared to render nursing assistance. In those countries where the Nightingale system of nursing had progressed until it occupied the position of an independent profession, Red Cross Societies found an adequate number of qualified nurses ready and eager to co-operate with them and organise for service under its banner. In other countries, even with such available facilities, the volunteer idea, in the more restrictive application of the word to "unpaid services," seemed to obscure the vision of the Red Cross Societies to such an extent that the qualified and well prepared group has been overlooked in favour of the so-called volunteer

group, without preparation, but for whom short courses must needs be developed. In such countries Red Cross Societies have seemed indisposed to turn to the professional group for assistance and advice. In some countries where there were no modern schools of nursing and no "trained" nurses, the Societies in their desire to provide good nurses for their sick and wounded soldiers, have organised schools of nursing and have controlled the field of nurse education. For example—in Japan we find practically all national nursing education under the control of the Red Cross Society, although a few



**FOUNTAIN ON LAKE OF GENEVA.**  
As seen from windows of new Offices of the International Council of Nurses.

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