

schools conducted by medical men are found, as well as some schools under missionary control. On the other hand, Red Cross Societies in some instances have seemed well satisfied with the results of the short courses which have developed under the society, and have accepted the product as adequately prepared for the care of the sick and wounded soldiers in time of war. There has, however, been a very noticeable "stirring beneath the soil" of recent years. If "straws show which way the wind is blowing" then the very evident interest on the part of the Red Cross Societies the world over in the improvement of health conditions, the prevention of disease and better nursing care of the sick, will probably result in improved systems of nurse education within the Red Cross itself as well as outside.

This extremely casual review of general conditions brings us quite logically to the point where we find a large number of National Red Cross Societies affiliated in two international groups; the International Red Cross Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies, the latter having a special division for nursing and a programme which has the promotion of health as one of its principal functions. We also find National Associations of Nurses from many of these countries united in an international group known as the International Council of Nurses, with one of the main planks in its platform the "promotion of the health of nations." There is, however, a marked difference between the two organisations, even though many of the aims and objects of each are the same. Red Cross Societies with a general membership are based upon voluntary service, and this implies lay control and direction and indicates frequent changes and indefinite standards.

The International Council of Nurses, on the other hand, is an organisation of professional Societies of Nurses, the objects of which are clearly defined in its Constitution. It stands for self-government, that is, the voting power in their National Association is in the hands of nurses, believing that through this prerogative the standards of nurse education will be raised and the public usefulness of its members enhanced. Every profession stands or falls upon the enforcement of this privilege.

Even though the two international organisations—the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Council of Nurses—are quite different types of organisations, because they are both engaged in activities in which they share a common interest and responsibilities, we find many places where they meet upon a common ground. Quite naturally a very high degree of co-operation between the two should prevail. That this is recognised by the League of Red Cross Societies is indicated by the Resolutions framed a short time ago by the Advisory Committee on Nursing of the Society and later approved by the Governing Board. While the full report can be secured from the League of Red Cross Societies, the programme urged is condensed as follows:

Some leading points were: "That public health nursing should be earnestly fostered; the importance of the nurse to such work should be emphasised and every effort made to improve the social, economic and educational status of the nurse; that educated women should be attracted to enter the profession. As a guide in establishing schools for nurses on a good model the Advisory Board drew up a plan and curriculum. Red Cross Societies should recognise the value of nursing organisations and work with them to promote the best ideals; in the future all short course volunteers should be called members of the Voluntary Aid Detachments, to serve under enrolled Red Cross Nurses; hereafter only such women as had gone through schools of nursing where women of the highest education were receiving and giving not less than three years should be designated as Red Cross Nurses."

The resolution affecting the International Council of Nurses reads:—

(1) That the Council (I.C.N.), "engaged in maintaining nursing standards and advancing the interests of the nursing profession," and the League, "engaged in developing nursing services," should be in close contact.

(2) That the League before distributing information on professional nursing organisations should submit it to the secretary of the International Council for confirmation, and that the League should not try to form "new National professional organisations which could not be affiliated with the International, but that in countries where nursing organisation was new, advisory councils to help it might be formed of lay persons."

Having reached this point, where the position of the League is clearly defined, what then is the position of the International Council of Nurses? The International Council of Nurses as a professional organisation with its headquarters and Executive Secretary, its quarterly magazine and other facilities, is prepared to assist the International Office of the League direct, or its National Societies through the National Association of Nurses, on questions relating to standards of graduate work or student nurse education, post-graduate courses, State registration, the organisation of National Societies of Nurses and in many other ways. The National Associations of Nurses can be of immense assistance to National Red Cross Societies. As these Societies turn to organised medical groups for medical assistance and advice, is it inconceivable to expect that they might also turn to organised nursing for similar assistance? It is true that the former is an older and stronger group, while the latter is younger and smaller, more dependent, and therefore more timid and less sure of itself, and therefore less well organised.

In those countries where nursing is well organised, for example the United States, the Red Cross Society formed an affiliation with the American Nurses' Association through which the latter pledged itself to support the Red Cross in its nursing activities. I trust I may be pardoned for relating the plan which prevails in my own country, but it is the one I know best and therefore can give most accurately. Through its efforts Local and State Committees heading in a National Committee have been organised. These are composed of nurses and have advised the National Red Cross Society on all nursing activities that are sponsored under its direction and developed under its chapters. In return the American Red Cross has granted to the American Nurses' Association the privilege of sending from each one of its branches in the States, of which there are forty-nine, a delegate to the Annual meeting of the American Red Cross with the privilege to vote upon the general programme of that organisation. This type of affiliation has been of immense value to the American Red Cross, which holds the reserve of the Army and Navy Nurse Corps. At the same time it has been of inestimable assistance towards promotion of higher standards of nurse education, as well as adding to the prestige of the nursing profession of the country. Through the work of the committees 45,000 graduate nurses, meeting a very definite requirement, have been enrolled as a reserve under the auspices of the American Red Cross. The records of these nurses are maintained at National Red Cross Headquarters, where a dignified office with its nurse director and assistant are members of the national staff.

Because of this relationship it was a comparatively easy matter for the American Red Cross to assign to the Army and Navy Nurse Corps, as well as to the United States Public Health Service and its own programme, over 20,000 graduate nurses during the World War. This enrolment is constantly drawn upon for nurses for the Red Cross programme, such as its rural public health nursing service, its Course in Home Hygiene and Care of

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