

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

THE INTERIM CONFERENCE.

Saturday, July 30th.

On Saturday, July 30th, at 8.30 p.m., the members of the Conference assembled at the Salle Centrale, Geneva, for the last time.

THIRD GENERAL SESSION.

8.30 P.M.

Mlle. Chaptal, President of the National Association of Certificated Nurses of France, presided at the last General Session of the Conference, held on the evening of Saturday, July 30th. As we have already mentioned, on assuming the Chair she was presented with a lovely sheaf of flowers by Sœur Marie Césarine, Matron of the Infantile Clinic in Strasburg.

Roll Call by Countries.

The interesting ceremony of calling on the nurses of the 34 countries represented at the Conference to rise as the name of each country was called, then took place. They were: Australia, 2; Albania, 1; Austria, 32; Belgium, 22; Bulgaria, 3; Canada, 5; China, 3; Czechoslovakia, 1; Denmark, 9; Great Britain, 163; Finland, 9; France, 198; Germany, 42; Greece, 2; Holland, 10; Hungary, 2; Irish Free State, 9; Italy, 18; Java, 1; Yugoslavia, 1; Latvia, 1; Luxembourg, 1; New Zealand, 3; Norway, 12; Poland, 15; Paraguay, 1; Roumania, 2; South Africa, 2; Scotland, 15; Spain, 4; Sweden, 12; Switzerland, 159; Turkey, 3; and the United States of America, 21.

At the conclusion of this ceremony, the late Miss Flora Madeline Shaw, President of the Canadian Nurses' Association, came forward, and cordially renewed its invitation to the International Council of Nurses to meet in Canada in 1929, between July 25th and August 25th, and expressed the hope that as many countries would be represented there, and more nurses from each.

Uniforms and Equipment for Nurses.

The subject under discussion at this Session was "Uniforms and Equipment for Nurses," and a paper on this subject, prepared by Major Julia Stimson, Superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps, U.S.A., was presented in her absence by Miss Margaret L. Fraser, Executive Secretary of the Army School of Nursing Alumnae Association, Washington, D.C.; who expressed Major Stimson's regrets at being unable to attend the Conference, and said there were tears in her voice when she told her she would not be able to do so.

Major Stimson said in part: "There are, I think, few subjects on which less has been written, at any rate in English, than on the evolution, and the aim of the nurse's

uniform. It is a theme which, in the United States at least, has been very little discussed, and if one peruses the reports of the last fifteen annual Congresses of the National League of Nursing Education one sees that it is not mentioned once in the programme. A request addressed to the Department of Instruction of the Nurses of Teachers College, New York, elicited the reply that the Library of the School—probably the best-equipped library in the United States on questions concerning the Nurse—possessed nothing which would be of any help for this paper, unless it was a short study on the subject



MME. S. HUSSEIN BEY, REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKISH RED CRESCENT, CONSTANTINOPLE, WITH FRENCH NURSES, LEAVING THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES OF SANITARY MATERIAL.

written one year previously by a pupil. This nurse to whom I wrote very kindly sent me her work and authorised me to use it. She wrote that she herself had had great difficulty in finding anything on the subject. It has not been possible to consult original sources much, and consequently this memorandum is very incomplete.

As the dominant factor in the development of the Nursing profession through the ages has been religion, with war and science as secondary factors, we must consider these factors in the evolution of the uniform. In the long period preceding the Christian Era, the religious influence has been preponderant in the matter, and as in this period it is almost impossible to distinguish between acts of care for the sick and ceremonies of worship, of purification, or

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)