

## A FEW IMPRESSIONS OF MY FIRST CONFERENCE.

The impressions made by the First International Nurses' Conference attended by the writer are so vivid and so various that it is puzzling to know which to pass on to those unfortunates who were not present.

Let us picture the feelings of a stranger if he had stepped unnoticed into the Salle Centrale one evening during the Conference.

He would have seen a large hall with a gallery; at the end of the hall a platform. Wherever he looked he would have seen women, for the hall was overflowing with them but he would have been at a loss to know who these women were and what they were doing.

Some were certainly nuns but their habits were so different that it was obvious they belonged to many different Orders; others were nurses, but their uniforms were as varied as the habits of the nuns.

Intermingled with the nurses and nuns are as many if not more ladies in ordinary, evening and afternoon dress.

For what possible reason can such a variety of women be collected together at 8.25 p.m. on a beautiful summer evening?

The noise they make is incredible, everybody is talking to her neighbour.

The stranger stops to listen and is more confused than ever, for he hears French, German, English, broken English and American-English.

What tie can possibly draw these women of so many tongues together?

Hush! Some ladies file on to the platform; a tall lady with grey hair rings a bell. "I will now call the roll call of the different countries represented at the International Nurses' Conference. You will all be interested to know that nearly forty countries have sent representatives and that more than seven hundred nurses have attended the Conference."

The stranger would think that now at last he has discovered the secret he was seeking, but it is only the nurses themselves who can fully appreciate the wonder of this Conference; seven hundred nurses from more than thirty countries assembled together to interchange ideas about their work and all determined to go forward as one body to their ultimate goal, the building up of their profession on the solid foundations of knowledge, loyalty and self-sacrifice.

The memory left of the Tour du Lac is unforgettable.

Once more hundreds of nurses were assembled; this time to share the joys of nature. Switzerland has been described as the melting-pot of the world's differences, and truly there could be no fitter place than its beautiful lake for the world's nurses to break down the barriers of reserve caused by differences of race and tongue. Impressions may be lasting or fleeting, but surely all who were present at the Conference, however narrow and self-satisfied they were before, are now eager to further the suggested scheme for International interchange of nurses and thus foster the broad minds and high ideals so necessary if they are to be worthy members of their profession.

SILVIA H. VIAN, F.B.C.N.

### AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

We are indebted to the courtesy of M. Etienne Clouzot, Editor of the *Revue Internationale de la Croix Rouge*, for the illustrations published in our Report of the Conference.

## THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

The Fourteenth Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, September 24th, at 3 p.m. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and the following members were present:—Miss M. Breay and Miss H. L. Pearse, *Vice-Presidents*; Miss G. Allbutt, Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss D. K. Graham, Miss I. Macdonald, Miss F. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., Mrs. Strong, Miss S. A. Villiers, *Fellows*; and Miss E. J. Haswell, *Member*.

Prayers having been read Miss M. Breay, in the absence of the Secretary on holiday, read the Minutes, which were confirmed.

### Business Arising out of the Minutes.

Several matters referred to in the Minutes were reported upon, dealing mainly with interviews with Fellows requiring advice and support through the Protection Scheme

It was reported that the invitations to Heads of Educational Establishments to be present at the At Home, to be given at the College on October 22nd next, had been issued. The Council to act as hostesses. In this connection the President observed that the primary advantage of recognising expert public work by an honorarium enabled women to conduct their duties not only generously, but with dignity, and it was satisfactory to learn that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales had under consideration the suggestion of an Honorarium for its Chair, to enable Registered Nurses to occupy this honourable position without undue strain financially.

### Correspondence.

A mass of very interesting correspondence was received and considered, business which occupied the Council for nearly two hours, and showed the increasing interest by Fellows and Members in the work of their College.

1. A letter from the Trustees in reference to the appointment of a Lecturer to bring the foundation principles and work of the College before the profession throughout the country, and also to take part in delivering Courses of Preliminary Educational Instruction to young women of good education desirous of entering the Nursing Profession

The Council unanimously agreed that the appointment of such a Lecturer would be most advantageous, and that Miss D. K. Graham should be recommended for the post. Miss Graham, who had retired during the discussion of this appointment, upon returning to the Council Chamber, accepted nomination and the appointment having been confirmed she has already commenced her duties, for which her many past pupils and collegiate colleagues recognise she is admirably qualified.

2. Correspondence with the Ministry of Health was read and considered, and it was agreed to invite further information on the responsibility for nursing standards in the smaller Fever Hospitals.

3. A letter from Mr. T. Shaw, head of the firm of admirable craftsmen who decorated 39, Portland Place, informing the Council that the heads of the various

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