

## NURSES' ORGANIZATIONS.

### THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The Annual Meeting of the Grand Council of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain will be held on Tuesday, November 22nd, at 3 p.m., at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.1.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick (President) will be in the chair, and will present a report including business transacted at Geneva, and of the educational and social value of the Nursing Conference convened in that city in July.

It is hoped that the Delegates of all the affiliated nurses' organisations will make every effort to be present, and take part in the business to be discussed.

### THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

A meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland was held in the Board Room of the Registered Nurses' Society, at 39, Portland Place, W., on November 2nd. The President (Miss H. L. Pearse) was in the chair, and the Hon. Secretary (Miss K. A. Smith, R.R.C.), presented a report. After the routine business, an interesting account was given by Miss Pearse of the Conference of the I.C.N. at Geneva in July; and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick spoke of the wonderful work being carried on at Leysin by Dr. Rollier, and also of the visit of members of the Conference to the International Labour Office.

Discussion then turned on the forthcoming election of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL NURSES' LEAGUE.

The Annual General Meeting of the University College Hospital Nurses' League will be held on November 12th, 1927, at the Trained Nurses' Institute, Huntley Street, W.C.1, at 3.15 p.m.

The Meeting will be followed by an "At Home." The President and Committee hope that as many members as possible will be present.

### THE SCOTTISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting was held in the Scottish Nurses' Club on Saturday, October 15th, when the President (Mrs. Strong) addressed a well-attended meeting of nurses. In concluding her remarks, Mrs. Strong said that it was somewhat amusing to hear the general complaint amongst nurses of the manner in which they are governed by the various bodies which exist for their benefit, forgetting that they have themselves to blame for not using the opportunities offered to them in nominating and voting for the members whom they think will be most likely to help them.

Dr. Patrick spoke of the nursing conditions in Spain, and gave an interesting account of his impressions, received while on a recent visit to Madrid with the Chirurgical Club. Madrid possesses a very large Medical School, with 3,000 medical students. Medical education was, so far as could be understood, free, and the medical course extended over six years. Most, if not all, of the hospitals were State-aided. The medical officers were admitted to the staff of the hospitals only after examination, and this applied even to Professorships and full Surgeonships. The hospitals in Madrid, with the exception of a small Red Cross Hospital and the Institute Rubio, were staffed by nurses entirely under the control of the Religious Orders of the Roman Catholic Church. All of these women who undertook the

duties entered as comparatively young girls who looked upon it as their life-work. These women received no systematic training, and no preliminary instruction in physiology and anatomy and hygiene, as is given in this country. The only training they actually acquired was that afforded them in the course of their ordinary work. It cannot be doubted that many of them were excellent nurses, but it seemed as if the claim of the sisterhood came first and that of nursing afterwards. An effort had been made within recent years to introduce some kind of systematic training of lay nurses, but so far it had not been very successful. There were only two small institutions for this purpose in Madrid. One was the Institute Rubio, founded by money left by a very wealthy gentleman. It contains 60 beds, and is used mainly for the training of lay nurses; there 31 nurses are trained—16 indoors and 16 resident in the city. The training extends over two years, at the end of which period a certificate is granted. The second was the Red Cross Hospital, sometimes called the Queen's Hospital, as it is a particular favourite of Queen Ena's. It contains 180 beds, and is supported by the Spanish Red Cross Society. It also serves as a training school for lay nurses for a term of two years. Then there was the very elaborate Maternity Hospital of St. Maria Christina, called after the Queen Mother, and it ranks as one of the finest maternity hospitals in Europe. It contains 150 beds, and here a ward patient might pay at the rate of about 4s. per day, the fees ranging as high as eighteen guineas per week for private rooms. This hospital is also the training ground for 30 midwives.

The conclusion, therefore, said Dr. Patrick, that one came to was that Spain was a long way behind our country, though the surgical profession in Madrid were keenly alive to the necessity for progress. As one compared what Spain had already achieved in the medical world, one hoped that she would bring herself up to the level of nursing in other countries, and that the strong effort put forth among many of the surgeons in Madrid to further the scheme would ultimately be achieved. Fortunately, the Royal Family was keenly interested in hospitals. The Queen was an English lady, and had a true knowledge of English life and of the nursing conditions and the education of nurses, so that we might rely on them to give all the support they could to the endeavour to have more favourable conditions established.

Mrs. Hardie gave an interesting account of her experiences of nursing in India.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The officials of National Councils of Nurses, affiliated to the International Council of Nurses, as well as members of these Councils, and other persons, are asked to note the new address of the Headquarters of the International Council, which has now removed from 1, Place du Lac, to 14, Quai des Eaux Vives, Geneva, Switzerland.

Application for the Report of the recent Conference of the I.C.N. should be made to the Secretary, Miss C. Reimann, at the above address. It is desirable to write for it as soon as possible as the supply will be strictly limited. Price 4s.

### LEGAL MATTERS.

At the Liverpool Assizes on Oct. 25th, Sarah Elizabeth Matthews, before Mr. Justice Acton, pleaded guilty to several counts of making a falsification in order to procure registration on the Register of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

She was bound over, and the Judge warned her not to behave so foolishly again.

It will be remembered that the name of this nurse has been removed from the State Register of Nurses by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

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