

on the Annual Conference of the National Council of Women, held at Bournemouth in October, giving the points and discussion raised on each resolution, which was much appreciated by the members present.

It was arranged that the next meeting should be held in the month of May. The business terminated and members adjourned for a much appreciated tea.

KATHLEEN A. SMITH,
Hon. Secretary

THE FEVER NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The Fever Nurses' Association Social Meeting took place at the Metropolitan Asylums' Board Offices on Saturday, February 18th, at 3 p.m. Dr. McIntyre, the President, was in the chair.

The Chairman at the outset extended on behalf of the Association a hearty welcome to their visitors, particularly to the young nurses who had come that afternoon to their first meeting of the Association. He wished to remind them that the F.N.A. was the only organisation which was solely representative of fever nurses. Its main objects were to promote their interests and obtain a wider recognition of the value of fever training. He hoped the nurses would support the Association by becoming members.

Turning to the subject of their meeting that afternoon, he said that the lecturer required no introduction to the Association. Miss Bryson was one of their most active and enthusiastic members, and there were very few who had done so much for the Association as she had. Last year she gave them a most interesting address on the Conference of the International Council of Nurses at Helsingfors. That afternoon she was going to give them another address, on the International Conference last year at Geneva, and he was sure this would prove equally interesting.

In giving her impressions of the International Conference of Nurses at Geneva, illustrated by many beautiful slides, Miss Bryson began by giving a brief description of the city itself, and of Mont Blanc, "this shy beauty of the Alps," who was revealed to us in all her splendour for about two days.

Nevertheless, her many beauties, her fame as an educational centre, in industry, commerce, science, art and music, and in the making of jewellery and watches, do not alone distinguish her from other cities. "What then," said the speaker, "is the secret of her outstanding fame? How is it that this comparatively small city attracts people from all parts of the world? It is the incessant struggle of her citizens throughout the centuries for Liberty that has raised her to the unique position she holds to-day in the world's affairs."

She then described the struggle between successive Counts, as stewards for the Emperor of the Central Empire (and later the House of Savoy), and the Bishops, a struggle which lasted for 500 years, the citizens siding sometimes with one party, and sometimes with the other, until the Reformers, Farel, Calvin and others freed the city, and it became a Republic, independent alike of Rome and of the House of Savoy. Calvin ruled Geneva with a merciless zeal, and it is a strange irony that this great Reformer and Statesman of civil and religious liberty could not grant freedom of conscience to those whose opinions differed from his own. He mercilessly tracked down all who did not accept his teaching, inflicting on them the horrible persecutions and torture of that period.

Nevertheless, to Calvin alone belongs the high honour of creating in one small walled town, that throbbing centre of religious life, of liberated thought, of civil freedom, from which radiated to Europe and America an influence which had a deep and lasting effect on every department of life.

The Conference itself, and the various visits and social functions enjoyed, have already been described in this Journal. Miss Bryson's beautiful slides revived happy memories for those who attended the Conference, and gave a very vivid impression of that delightful week to those who did not.

Especially interesting was Miss Bryson's description of the Wall of Remembrance. It was, she said, an inspired thought to combine in the Reformation Monument the statues and stone pictures of those who strove for religious liberty with the Great Wall, which is a continuous reminder of the attainment of civil liberty. The very same wall which was defended by those courageous citizens of 1602, now forms the support against which the sculptured figures stand, a group of four superbly in the centre—the one of Calvin slightly more forward than those of Farel, Bèze, and John Knox. The face, modelled from portraits, shows clearly the relentless strength and pitiless forcefulness of his character.

Freedom was the central idea of the Reformation, as it was accepted by one country after another, and it is the heroic struggle for this priceless possession which is told so vividly by Geneva's Great Wall.

FOUNDER AND FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

We were fortunate (said Miss Bryson) that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was present at this Conference, which I think she said was the seventh she had experienced. Nurses have to thank her very largely for the high standard of nursing to-day.

She has inspired by her creative genius the following world-wide movements—(1) she was the pioneer of State Registration for Nurses; (2) founded the International Council of Nurses; and, as first President, organised the British College of Nurses, the first of its kind to be self-governing.

Three great organisations for which she has given more than thirty years of incessant toil, and her great liberty-loving heart asks no other reward than that we use these great privileges wisely.

Just as Calvin won for the Protestant world civil and religious liberty, so, to my mind, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will go down to history as the great Reformer in the nursing profession of our time. Her life's work has won for nurses legal status; the higher education of nurses, and in founding this great International Council of professional liberty, laid the foundation upon which nurses of all nations shall have intercourse in exchange of ideas and sympathies, so helping each other towards greater progress for the benefit of mankind.

My impressions are that this International Council of Nurses, conducted in the true spirit of Internationalism, is a means of educational, economic and social progress, and, above all, a force in our professional liberty. The fact that seven hundred nurses met at Geneva, representative of thirty-four nations, who, judging from their enthusiasm greatly appreciated the International Council, gives one pause as to the wonders this self-governing organisation will achieve as the years roll on "in helping humanity how to live."

Dr. McIntyre, in moving a vote of thanks to Miss Bryson, said they had listened to a most interesting account of the International Conference of Nurses at Geneva, not only upon nursing affairs, for Miss Bryson had brought the International before them as it were on a broader basis, and they were very much indebted to her for a very pleasant afternoon.

Miss Dorothea Webb, in seconding, said what pleasure the very interesting lecture had given to all present. Miss Bryson had brought Geneva to them in the same way that previously she had brought Finland, and they thanked her

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