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## EDITORIAL.

### THIRTY YEARS AFTER.

Just thirty years ago next month a seed was cast into fertile soil, which, come to fruition, has resulted in the organisation known as the International Council of Nurses, now the Parliament of the Nurses of the world, which has convened the great Congress which will meet in Montreal next month.

On the first of July, 1899, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick proposed at the Annual Meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, held at 20, Hanover Square, London:—

**"That steps be taken to organise an International Council of Nurses."**

The proposal was seconded from the chair, by the President of the Matrons' Council, the late Miss Isla Stewart, Matron and Superintendent of Nursing at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and was supported by Miss Margaret Huxley, a Vice-President of the Council, and carried unanimously.

It was then agreed that a Provisional Committee of the Hon. Officers of the Matrons' Council, and its Hon. Members in various countries, with power to add to their number, should be formed to consider the best methods of organizing an International Council of Nurses.

The foreign Hon. Members, and other representative nurses from the United States of America, Denmark, Holland and Cape Colony, then in London, met the following day, and progress was made by the formation of a Provisional International Committee, to carry the idea into practical effect.

The first Hon. Officers of the Council, elected in 1900 by a postal ballot of members in five continents, were the Founder, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick (Great Britain), President; Miss L. L. Dock (U.S.A.), Hon. Secretary;

and Miss M. A. Snively (Canada), Hon. Treasurer; under whose wise and energetic direction the Council rapidly developed.

Meetings have been held in Berlin, London, Cologne, San Francisco, Copenhagen and Helsingfors, and most successful Congresses were convened in connection with them, in London, Cologne and Helsingfors. Interim Conferences have also been held in Paris and Geneva.

The distinguished women who succeeded Mrs. Fenwick in the Presidency were the late Miss S. B. McGahey, Lady Superintendent of the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, Australia; the late Sister Agnes Karll, President of the German Nurses' Association; Professor Anna W. Goodrich, now Dean of the Yale University School of Nursing, U.S.A.; Mrs. Henny Tscherning, until recently President of the Danish Council of Nurses; the late Baroness Sophie Mannerheim, President of the Nurses' Association of Finland; and Miss Nina D. Gage, M.A., of the United States, for five years Dean of the Hunan-Yale School of Nursing in China, and at present Executive Secretary of the National League of Nursing Education, New York, a lady of high intellectual and professional attainments.

Thus far the framework of the Council, but its success has not been the result of organisation alone, but of the altruism, high ideals, and endeavour of the nurses of the affiliated Associations, and of the capacity and passion for work of its officers as a means of attaining these ideals.

The International Council of Nurses has been happy in attracting from the first women in the forefront of nursing progress, and the flower of the profession with whom to come in contact is an inspiring and uplifting privilege.



MISS NINA D. GAGE, R.N., M.A.,  
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