

## THE CANADIAN NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The Canadian Nurses' Association was founded in October, 1908, at the time of the first annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses. Representatives from sixteen nurses' organisations in the Dominion of Canada attended.

The present membership consists of nine provincial associations of registered nurses, eleven local graduate nurses' associations, and twenty-nine alumnæ.

Within the C.N.A. there are three national sections—the Public Health Nursing Section, created in 1920; the Private Duty Nursing Section formed in 1921; and the Nursing Education Section, formerly the Canadian Association of Nursing Education, originally called the Canadian Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, and affiliated with the C.N.A. from 1908. The Nursing Education Section was formed in 1924.

General meetings of the organisation are held biennially. In the interval the business of the Association is carried on through the executive committee. This committee consists of a president, first and second vice-presidents, an honorary secretary, an honorary treasurer, the chairmen of the three national sections, and four councillors from each provincial association; these councillors are the president and the chairmen of the three provincial sections. In this way there is equal representation of provincial associations of nurses in the national body.

Each provincial organisation has obtained an Act for the Registration of Nurses. Thus each province has complete autonomy in regard to legislation for nurses. The national organisation is the instrument by which mutual understanding and unity among organisations of nurses in Canada are promoted. Other purposes for which the C.N.A. exists are: To acquire a knowledge of the methods of nursing in every country; to elevate the standard of professional nursing education; to promote a high standard of professional honour among nurses in all their relations; to encourage a spirit of sympathy with nurses of other countries; and to afford facilities for international hospitality.

In 1916 the Association purchased the *Canadian Nurse*, and since then has owned and edited this journal as the official organ of the Association.

In 1918, the founder of the Association, Miss Mary Agnes Snively, was asked to act as archivist. To this request Miss Snively graciously acceded, and at the general meeting

in 1921 she presented a comprehensive and interesting report of the organisation and its activities during the years 1908 to 1912. Later there was added to this report a brief historical sketch of the Association until the year 1924, and the entire material was published in booklet form in 1926.

From the beginning it was recognised that the Association should have a central office, but it was not until 1923 that a national office was established in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and an Executive Secretary appointed. The following year the office of the *Canadian Nurse* was moved to the National Office.



By courtesy of *The Canadian Nurse*.  
From a portrait in the Nurses' Residence, Toronto General Hospital.

MISS MARY AGNES SNIVELY, R.N.,  
Founder and Hon. President Canadian Nurses' Association,  
Councillor and First Hon. Treasurer International Council  
of Nurses.

The Association is affiliated with the Canadian Council on Child Welfare, the National Council of Women of Canada, and the International Council of Nurses. Affiliation with the International Council took place in 1909 and now, when the C.N.A. has reached its majority, its members are busy with arrangements in preparation for the Congress and Sixth Regular Meeting of the Council, than which no more fitting celebration could be observed by Canadian nurses. It is with hearts full of joy that they are preparing for the Congress.

In countries of vast territory, such as Canada, with its small and scattered population, one might expect to find it difficult to maintain a national spirit among the members of any national body. However, the national solidarity of the Canadian Nurses' Association was well demonstrated when its members undertook the raising of funds for a memorial to their sisters whose lives were given on active service during the Great War. In 1926, there was unveiled in the Hall of Fame, Federal Buildings, Ottawa, a most beautiful memorial, presented by the Association to the people of Canada, in honoured memory of Canadian nurses.

Among present activities of the Association are: The question of change in membership in order that dual affiliation may be eliminated; the national enrolment of members of the C.N.A. for emergency service in war, disaster, epidemics, etc. This enrolment is being effected through co-operation with the Canadian Red Cross Society and in consultation with the Federal Department of National Defence. Another activity is the raising of funds to aid in the study of nursing in Canada under the direction of a Joint Committee of the Canadian Medical Association, the Canadian Nurses' Association, and the Hospitals' Association.

The National Sections have numerous special committees active with matters relating to their respective interests.

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