

had a chance to meet many of the Swiss nurses who helped receive and entertain us, and some of whom are with us to-day. Our Secretary did most of the organisation for the Interim Conference. We owe her very much, with Conferences, magazine, headquarters, information, encouragement, assistance in all sorts of nursing problems throughout the world. We must find some way to give her help. She could make many interesting studies, and help the profession greatly by her research, if she could be freed from some of the routine duties.

And now, thanks to the generosity of the Canadian nurses, we are meeting here in this beautiful city of Montreal, the first place where nursing became known on this side of the world. China still regrets exceedingly that circumstances beyond the control of the nurses made it impossible to receive us there this year. But the Revolution is bringing about a better country, where nurses will find it much more possible to make themselves useful, and we hope that before too many more Congresses the Nurses' Association of China will be able to repeat its invitation. Meanwhile, the Canadians have been working valiantly, and have prepared in only two years the welcome which we are finding all around us. We cannot be too grateful to our hostesses, and can show our gratitude not only by our appreciation now, but by our translation of inspiration into action on our return to our duties.

The problems before our profession are many and great. I shall not dwell upon them, because Miss Nutting will present them so much better to-morrow night. But they need clear thinking and much study. How can we enrol better students in our schools? How can we better prepare them for their work? What changes are necessary in our schools and our organisations to enable us better to serve our communities? Many so-called schools are not real schools, and must be reorganised and get money for endowment, as Miss Nightingale's school did.

Through all our problems runs the scarlet thread of our ultimate object, better care of the patients, whether in home or hospital, ill or being prevented from becoming ill. To us this is self-evident. We do not like it, when, in our attempts to improve the education of our pupils, and therefore their preparation for their job, we are asked the frequent question, "who is to nurse the patient if you keep on pushing up requirements?" We become impatient at other people's lack of understanding of our purpose. One school among us with the best of modern preparation is now sending out its first graduates, who are turning to private duty and bedside nursing because they appreciate the importance of that work and the opportunity given by it for saving their fellow men. Make this clear to the community, prove that with better preparation you will give better service, and the public will support you.

In this way to win the co-operation and assistance, moral and financial, of the people round about us toward our better preparation, is one of our most necessary and pressing tasks to-day. On our success depends the possibility of keeping the interest and support of our public, and so our work for our patients and neighbours, and thus for our country. We must make them feel our deep interest in their welfare, physical, mental, spiritual. And so our co-operative work becomes again individual, and we act and react on each other. Organisations like these will so improve our care of our patient that the public will see and know our aims, and how we realise them, and they will feel and know that our patients and neighbours are the centre of our thought and effort, sympathy and feeling. In this way we shall be able to translate our principles into action, and move forward, with a united front according to our Constitution through our world-wide organisation, to "ever higher standards of . . . public usefulness of our members."

Report of the Fifth Congress at Helsingfors.

There followed the Report of the Fifth Congress of the International Council of Nurses, held at Helsingfors in 1925, and the Reports of the Secretary, Treasurer and Grand Council.

Reports of Committees.

Reports of the Standing and Special Committees were also presented by, or on behalf of, their Chairmen. Arrangements (Miss Mabel F. Hersey, Canada). Programme (Miss Jean I. Gunn, Canada), Membership (Miss Clara D. Noyes, United States). Nominations (Miss Helen L. Pearse, Great Britain, read by Miss Hellemans). Finance, Miss E. M. Musson (Great Britain). Education (Miss Isabel M. Stewart, B.S., M.A.). Public Health Nursing (Miss Mary S. Gardner, M.A., United States). Private Duty Nursing (Miss Jeanne de Joannis, France). Revision of Constitution and By-Laws (Miss Jean I. Gunn, Canada). Publications (Miss Bella G. Alexandra, South Africa, read by Mrs. Bennie). Mental Nursing and Hygiene (Mrs. Neuman, Rahn, Finland). Florence Nightingale Memorial (Miss Isabel Stewart, U.S.A.), from which it will be realised that the activities of the Council are important and widespread.

Standing Committees to Summon their Own Meetings.

For the easier and more efficient conduct of business it was arranged that each Committee should summon its own meetings and conduct its own proceedings (by correspondence or otherwise), reporting subsequently to Headquarters, instead of all business being conducted from Geneva, and that the Secretary should, ex-officio, be a member of all Committees which would keep her in touch with the business transacted.

Important Decisions.

Important decisions of the Grand Council reported at this meeting were:—

1. On the motion of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, the restoration to the Foundation Members of the International Council of their seats for life on the Grand Council, offered to them, and accepted by them in 1900 in recognition of their services in helping to draft the original Constitution of the Council, and in its preliminary organisation, but of which, in the drafting of the Amended Constitution, as adopted in Helsingfors in 1925, they had been dispossessed. The proposal for their reinstatement was put forward to the Grand Council with the support of the Board of Directors in conformity with its decision at its meeting in Geneva in 1927, and was carried unanimously.

2. The decision to raise the *per capita* dues per member to 4d. instead of 2½d. annually, the increase to take effect from July, 1930, by which time it is thought that the Affiliated National Councils will have had time to adjust their arrangements. Meanwhile it is hoped that they may consider a voluntary increase in the fees paid, in order that the International Council may have a sufficient income for its ever-growing and important work. The decision was arrived at, after full and anxious discussion, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee and the support of the Treasurer.

3. In consequence of a Resolution submitted by *Nosokomos*, asking that the terms "trained nurse" and "trained graduate nurse," as used in the Constitution, might be defined, the Education Committee prepared a definition and presented it to a meeting of the Grand Council. It was agreed that the question was too important for an immediate decision to be taken, and that the definition should be circulated. Ultimately it was referred to the incoming Board of Directors.

4. Lastly, it was reported that Miss Nina D. Gage, the retiring President, had been elected an Hon. Member of the International Council of Nurses (on the proposition of Miss Breay, seconded by Mlle. Chaptal).

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