

GENERAL SESSION.

Tuesday, July 9th, 9.30 a.m.

Miss Clara D. Noyes, First Vice-President, I.C.N., presided at the General Session of the Congress held in the Forum, Montreal, on the morning of Tuesday, July 9th.

ROLL CALL BY COUNTRIES.

The first business was the Roll Call by Countries, the nurses of each country rising in their seats as the name of the country was called. They were:—Australia, 6; Belgium, 9; Bermuda, 2; Brazil, 7; Bulgaria, 2; Burma, 1; China, 13; Cuba, 3; Denmark, 8; Finland, 33; France, 19; Germany, 4; Greece, 1; Holland, 11; Hungary, 1; India, 2; Irish Free State, 2; Northern Ireland, 1; Italy, 2; Japan, 5; Korea, 4; New Zealand, 7; Norway, 11; Philippines, 5; Poland, 4; Porto Rica, 3; Roumania, 1; Scotland, 39; South Africa, 7; Sweden, 7; Switzerland, 9; Jugo Slavia, 1; England, 125; Hayti, 2; Canada, 2,822; United States of America, including Hawaii, 3,034. When the nurses of Canada and of the United States arose amidst applause it appeared as if half the great concourse of nurses were standing.

REPORTS OF AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS.

The Reports of Affiliated Organisations in order of affiliation were next received. These have been printed, and are obtainable in pamphlet form. We, therefore, make only brief extracts from each. The Reports were presented in each case by the President of their Association or her representative.

National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain has been strengthened during the quadrennial period by the affiliation of the British College of Nurses, the Association of Hospital Matrons, the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association, the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association, the Scottish Matrons' Association, and the Royal Waterloo Hospital (London) Nurses' League, thus including all the Matrons' Associations of special sections in Great Britain and adding a membership of nearly 3,000 nurses to the Council.

An event of importance in relation to the self-government of the nursing profession has been the election of a registered nurse as Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. This position has been held since January, 1926, by Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., Treasurer of the International Council of Nurses.

The American Nurses' Association.

The soul of the American Nurses' Association is the individual nurse, and the strength of its membership is based upon her, and upon her vision of what she considers to be her obligations as a woman and as a nurse. The American Nurses' Association is really the composite nurse. The nurse becomes a member of the national organisation through the following steps:—(a) Graduation from an accredited school of nursing; (b) State registration by examination; (c) Acceptance as a member of her Alumnæ Association, which Association must meet the standards of the American Nurses' Association.

It is through this last step that the nurse becomes an individual member of the District and State Association in which her Alumnæ is located, and, therefore, a member of the American Nurses' Association.

A factor of the greatest importance in creating an informed membership and in building up a national professional consciousness among nurses is the *American Journal of Nursing*, the official publication of the American Nurses' Association.

The Canadian Nurses' Association.

The Association, established in 1908, and now having an approximate membership of 10,000, consists of three sections: Private Duty, Nursing Education and Public Health.

Each section deals with the problems which are peculiarly its own, while special committees are appointed from the whole membership for the consideration of matters of general interest.

Ten years ago the first connection with universities in Canada was established to further the education of the nurse. At present, four universities offer a five-year combined course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing; the Universities of British Columbia, Alberta, Western and St. Francis Xavier. The Universities of British Columbia, Western, McGill and Toronto offer post-graduate courses in Teaching, Administration and Supervision in Schools of Nursing, and in Public Health Nursing. The post-graduate course in Public Health Nursing at the University of Montreal is planned for French students.

The Danish Council of Nurses.

Mrs. Henny Tscherning, née Schultz, retired from her position as President of the Danish Council of Nurses in the spring of 1927, after having held it for twenty-seven years, and was succeeded by Miss Charlotte Munck, Matron of the "Bispebjerg Hospital," Copenhagen.

Although great efforts have been made, State supervision of nursing has not yet been secured in Denmark, the Bill having met with opposition in Parliament. The Danish Council of Nurses, therefore, as the only organisation in Denmark which looks after the interests of the trained nurses and protects the nursing profession, must continue to take full responsibility for the development of the nursing profession in this country. With this object in view, the Council has made its conditions for admission more stringent, introducing among other things a clause to the effect that, with certain exceptions, no nurse can be accepted as an active member unless she has been an associate member of the Council during the two last years of her three years' course of training.

The Nurses' Association of Finland.

In 1927, the Association had the great satisfaction of seeing a hope realised that had been cherished during many years. We were able to move to accommodation of our own, providing spacious headquarters, a club for nurses with home facilities both for private duty nurses and for those who have retired from work, and a hall for meetings.

On January 9th, 1928, the Nurses' Association of Finland sustained a heavy loss through the death of the Baroness Sophie Mannerheim. During more than twenty years she filled the position of President of our Association with the greatest success and devotion. Her far-sighted and fruitful work for the benefit of the profession was deeply appreciated and makes the loss still more acute.

In April, 1929, the Nurses' Association of Finland, together with the National League of Nurses of Finland, founded the National Council of Nurses of Finland, the chief aim of this organisation being to represent Finnish nurses outside their own country.

Nosokomos, Holland.

In the winter of 1927-28, a number of prominent nurses came together, and instituted a provisional committee for the purpose of founding a national organisation. Finding themselves supported by the public opinion they founded the "National Association of Nurses" (*De Nationale Bond van Verplegenden*) in April, 1928.

At the General Meeting of *Nosokomos*, held on Novem-

previous page

next page