

## THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

### THE NURSES' CONGRESS, MONTREAL.

Tuesday, July 9th.

#### GENERAL SESSION, 9.30 a.m.

The following summaries of Reports of Affiliated National Associations, presented on the morning of Tuesday, July 9th, in the Forum at Montreal are continued from page 210 of our September issue:—

#### New Zealand Trained Nurses' Association.

In 1928, a new Act was passed in New Zealand called the "Nurses and Midwives Registration Act," which gave the control of the registration and training of nurses to a Board termed the "Nurses and Midwives Registration Board." The Act states the Board shall consist of:

(a) The Director-General of Health under the Health Act, 1920.

(b) The Director of the Division of Nursing under the Health Act, 1920.

(c) A registered medical practitioner appointed on the recommendation of the Minister.

(d) Two other persons of whom one shall be a registered nurse and the other shall be a registered midwife, each appointed on the recommendation of the New Zealand Trained Nurses' Association.

The members of the Board, other than members who are such by virtue of their office, shall be appointed by the Governor-General for a period of three years.

#### The National Federation of Belgian Nurses.

The object of the National Federation of Belgian Nurses, which includes a number of provincial associations, is to unite all the nurses in the country. Its members co-operate with a view to improving the status of their profession, not only by protecting their own interests, but also by ensuring professional intercourse, which is so essential for any kind of mutual understanding and support. Our nurses are endeavouring to secure wider understanding of the ideal and disinterested aspects of the nurse's calling, and to have these aspects take material shape.

The National Federation of Belgian Nurses is devoting unceasing attention to a number of problems, such as professional ethics, courses for trained nurses, the correct wearing of uniform, questions arising in connection with the national movement, dealings with the higher authorities, and lastly the carrying out of various schemes endorsed by the Federation.

#### The Nurses' Association of China.

Our curriculum for schools of nursing has been revised to keep abreast of progress and the schools registered anew, so that there are now 131 on the list, with many more approaching the registration standard. Perhaps one of the most difficult pieces of work has been the holding of the annual national examination, in spite of interrupted travel routes and delayed mail services. In several instances, the nurses were writing their examinations while fighting was going on in the same city. However, 1928 was a record year, and the future is bright with promise. Many avenues of service are opening before our graduates, but in China, as elsewhere, public health will most likely take first place in the near future, for training and for service too.

The Ministry of Health has been established at Nanking and will have the direction of all national health work, including the registration of nurses, doctors, midwives, dentists, etc. Public health will figure largely in the Minister's programme, and a special board has been organised for the training and control of all midwives.

#### The Norwegian Nurses' Association.

The small and big battles of former days about things and improvements that are now facts make us smile and

the young nurses cannot realise how fierce has been the struggle for most of the advantages they now profit by and take quite naturally.

A Bill for State Registration of the nurses is still lying before our Parliament. This Bill is not as we Norwegian nurses wish it to be, and we have got the passing of it postponed in the hope that we may get it altered and made serviceable to the benefit both of the public and of the nurses.

#### GENERAL SESSION, 8 p.m.

The last item on the programme of the evening meeting in the Forum on July 9th was the presentation by Miss E. Burgess of the paper entitled "The Future" by Miss M. Adelaide Nutting, M.A., Emeritus Professor of Nursing Education, Teachers' College, New York, United States, who unfortunately was unable to present it personally. Below we print excerpts from this most suggestive paper.

#### THE FUTURE.

Before the immensities of this title one may, I trust, be pardoned for faltering, and for taking the liberty of modifying it to something of a less venturesome nature; to an attempt instead to consider briefly the educational foundations we are making for the future of nursing.

"The Communion of Saints," says our most modern of philosophers, Alfred Whitehead, "is a great and inspiring assemblage, but it has only one possible meeting place, and that is in the present. The present contains all that there is. It is holy ground, for it is the past and it is the future."

The present does indeed seem "holy ground" as we gather in this city of memories; a city whose archives preserve, and whose beautiful statues enshrine the story of the heroic deeds nearly three centuries ago of Jeanne Mance, the founder and first nurse of the Hotel Dieu; a city which has watched the endless throng of devoted women, long of one faith, now of many faiths, who have followed where she led the way. We can still catch the glow of the flame which inspired them in the generous lives and labours of the nurses of to-day.

The rise of nursing is one of the great movements of a great period in history. It began, when, nearly seventy years ago, the idea was set free in the world that knowledge and training were essential in the care of the sick. Notable in itself, as designed to revolutionise the age-old task of nursing, not merely by advancing new ideas about it, but by setting in motion a system of training through which these ideas could be put into effect, the event becomes momentous when seen in its true perspective as an advance which was to release the energies of women in widely fruitful directions, and lead the way to many new opportunities for them. "You have started them. There will be a woman in the Cabinet of 1930," says Lord Palmerston to Florence Nightingale, in the delightful play about her by Reginald Berkeley, now appearing in London. It is called "The Lady with a Lamp."

Behind Florence Nightingale's conviction that nursing is an art requiring careful training based upon scientific knowledge, was the driving force of a constructive imagination and of administrative genius. Behind it was a plan, a workable plan, through which the idea took on form and substance and grew and spread, until now it is found in nearly every part of the civilised world in the modern profession of nursing.

This Congress of the International Council of Nurses, with representatives from thirty-eight countries, is in itself evidence of the growth and vitality of the profession, and we are glad that the brilliant founder of the Council, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, is here to see the results of her handiwork—the living, growing unity of nursing which caught her

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