

## THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY.

To the Members of the Board of Directors.

#### I.—INTERIM CONFERENCE:

A letter has just been received from Mrs. E. A. Watts, Honorary Secretary of the Trained Nurses' Association of India, dated August 14th, reading as follows:—

"At the Executive Committee of the T.N.A.I. held on 8th August, the matter of the Interim Conference was dealt with, and the following minute indicates our action:—

#### I.—I.C.N INTERIM CONFERENCE.

"Correspondence referring to this was read and it was decided to withdraw the invitation given to the I.C.N. to hold a Conference in India in 1931, owing to the unsettled condition of the country at this time."

"We are sorry not to have the Conference, but recognised that the condition of India at this time would make it difficult for people to decide to come."

No replies have been received from Members of our Board of Directors in response to the circular letter of June 28th asking for immediate communication of any suggestions which Members might desire to make with reference to an Interim Conference in case the meeting in India did not materialise.

In the event of no such communication being received within four months from the date of the circular letter above mentioned, i.e. October 28th, it will be understood that the Board of Directors does not desire that an Interim Conference should be held during 1931. As time is so short, members who have such a desire are asked to communicate with International Headquarters as quickly as possible—preferably by telegram if long distances are involved—in order to ensure that action can be taken on their suggestions as soon as possible.

#### II.—MEMOIR OF BARONESS MANNERHEIM.

On July 19th we distributed to the Members of the Board, in accordance with a suggestion received from Miss B. G. Alexander, an English translation of Berta Edel-felt's Memoir of Baroness Mannerheim made at International Headquarters from the original copy in Swedish received from General Mannerheim.

We are glad to be able to inform those Members of our Board who are anxious to publish this Memoir that we have obtained General Mannerheim's permission for this to be done. We should like to suggest that a note be added to the text to the effect that it is a translation, as although we have done our very best to make the translation as good as possible, and although we have received no comments from Finland regarding possible errors, we know that this translation naturally has not the same value as the original work.

#### III.—LETTER FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

A letter has been received from Lady Aberdeen, President of the International Council of Women, reading as follows:—

"At the recent Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council of Women at Vienna the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

#### CO-OPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

"That the International Women's Organisations be invited to co-operate with the International Council of Women on the following lines:

1. Special Conferences or Demonstrations to be held jointly when matters of international importance arise which would make common international action desirable and effective.

2. Communication between the respective women's international organisations which would enable them to be kept informed as to any plans of work or proposed conferences likely to be of common interest."

"May I ask you to consult the International Society of which you are a Secretary as to whether it would be prepared to enter into a scheme of co-operation on the above basis?"

"On the suggestion of the World's Y.W.C.A. it has been decided to convene a special meeting of the International Societies now represented on the Joint Committee for securing the appointment of women to the International and Expert Committees of the League of Nations to take place immediately after the meeting of that Committee fixed for September 10th at Geneva in order to discuss a scheme of co-operation between Women's International Societies on the above basis.

"It was decided by the International Council of Women Executive only to approach Societies represented on the Joint Committee in the first instance and to confer with them on how best to carry out the proposals.

"I hope that your Society will be agreeable to this proposal and that you will empower your representatives on the Joint Committee or others whom you may wish to appoint to act for you."

As the date fixed for the meeting in Geneva (Sept. 10th) is so near, it is not possible to obtain the opinions of the Members of our Board of Directors in time.

As no doubt most of the Members of the Board will remember, the I.C.N. is one of the eight large women's international organisations which form the Joint Standing Committee of Women's International Organisations, which institution holds its monthly meetings in London, but during the month of September, one or more meetings are held in Geneva; the I.C.N., according to a decision taken by the Board of Directors, is to be represented at meetings, held in Geneva, by the President and Secretary or their substitutes.

Proposals brought forward at the meeting of September 10th will be circulated as soon as possible afterwards for the opinion of the Board.

CHRISTIANE REIMANN,  
Secretary.

#### "THE INTERNATIONAL NURSING REVIEW."

Through some error on the part of the publishers the copies of *The International Nursing Review* for May and July arrived almost simultaneously, and they are packed full of news which will take some time to absorb.

#### A NURSING ACT FOR FINLAND.

And first we must congratulate the Finnish nurses that after more than twenty-five years of effort on their part, a Nursing Act has finally been passed by Parliament. It was signed by the President of Finland on November 2nd, 1929, to come into force on January 1st, 1930. The Regulations of the Act were signed by the President on December 21st, 1929.

The Nursing Act and matters pertaining to it are administered by the Medical Board of Finland, under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior. The duties of the Board are to register schools—State, municipal or private—reaching a certain standard, to decide upon the curriculum, and in regard to State schools to arrange for preliminary courses, and to settle what text-books are to be used, how many students are to be admitted and whether the courses shall be given in Finnish or Swedish.

A Training School Committee must be set up in connection with each State school, and shall include the chief medical officer of the hospital to which the school is attached, the superintendent of nurses, the director of the preliminary course and a representative appointed by the Medical

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