

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

HISTORY OF THE COUNCIL.

Miss M. Breay, in collaboration with Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, has completed the History of the International Council of Nurses from its foundation in London in 1899 to the Meeting of the Executive Committee at Copenhagen in 1923, work which contains upwards of 70,000 words. Chapters have already appeared in the *I.C.N.*, the official organ of the International Council, in the issues of July and October, 1929.

The remainder will appear in the *International Nursing Review* in early issues.

The history of the Council from 1925 can be gathered in the Reports of the Meetings at Helsingfors, 1925; at Geneva, in 1927; and at Montreal, in 1929.

It is hoped that the history of the International Council of Nurses may some day appear in compact volume form for the convenience of all concerned.

Miss Reimann has written to Miss Breay:—

"Thank you so much for sending the continuation of 'The History of the I.C.N.' I am very grateful indeed to you for all the work you have put into this Report, and know that it will be much appreciated by the readers of the magazine."

THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE.

The ladies who were nominated to form the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee at Montreal have all accepted the invitation to serve and are as follows:—

Constitution of Committee.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, S.R.N., F.B.C.N., President National Council of Nurses of Great Britain (*Chairman*).

Miss A. Lloyd Still, C.B.E., R.R.C., S.R.N., Matron of St. Thomas' Hospital, London, and President of the Nightingale Fellowship.

Miss Mabel F. Gray, Assistant Professor of Nursing, Department of Nursing and Health, the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.

Sister Kerstin Nordendahl, Superintendent of Nurse Registration in Sweden, Stockholm.

Miss Carrie M. Hall, Superintendent of Nurses, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, Mass.

Miss Isabel M. Stewart, Professor of Nursing Education, Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York.

Miss M. A. Nutting, Professor Emeritus of Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York.

MEMBERS EX-OFFICIO.

Mlle. L. Chaptal, President of the International Council of Nurses.

Miss C. Reimann, Secretary.

MESSAGE FROM MISS NINA D. GAGE.

Miss Nina D. Gage, President of the International Council of Nurses, 1925-1929, has written to the Board of Directors:—

"May I thank you all most cordially for the beautiful edition of Thomas Hardy's poems which you sent me through Miss Clayton? I was indeed touched by your remembrance in such delightful form, and by your greeting on the flyleaf. The book, with its lovely binding in my own favourite blue, will always be a cherished possession, speaking to me of our four years' work together for the Council, and of the support and co-operation which I so constantly felt from you, and without which we should not have accomplished what we did for the Council. I can imagine no happier relationship than existed between us. With such mutual assistance we prove the way in which nursing, wherever it is, can serve the world, and how nurses, individually and co-operatively, can make themselves useful citizens."

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

The first meeting of the Advisory Committee on International Affairs was held in the Board Room of the Registered Nurses' Association at 39, Portland Place, W., on Tuesday, February 25th, at 4.30 p.m.

The Committee consists of the three Hon. Officers of the National Council, Mrs. Fenwick, Miss H. L. Pearse and Miss M. Breay, Miss Lloyd Still, Miss E. M. Musson, Miss Cox-Davies, Miss Cochrane, Miss Bushby and Miss Ritchie Thomson.

Mrs. Fenwick, who presided, presented a letter from Miss M. Adelaide Nutting, supplementing the letter she sent to the International Council of Nurses at Montreal, suggesting, as an International Memorial to Miss Florence Nightingale, the establishment in London of a Florence Nightingale Foundation.

Miss Nutting wrote to Mrs. Fenwick: "I have wished many times that I could drop quietly down in London and talk the matter over with you and Miss Lloyd Still, and one or two other old friends, in an entirely informal way, so that the very kind invitation from the National Council to go over to England in the near future and discuss the outlook with British Nurses, falls on warmly receptive ears. May I thank you for it, and say at once that I would be very happy indeed to be able to accept this invitation.

It is possible that a little later on, perhaps in May or June, I might be able to visit England, but that is uncertain and might be too late for your purpose.

The Memorial seems almost as real to me as if it were actually visible and alive under my eyes at this moment, and I have little doubt that it is within our power to build it. Of course, the idea cannot take shape and grow without having behind it the full strength of all nurses of every country, and it will be necessary to bring many groups together in one perfectly united intensely co-operative effort. The Memorial should be in England, to honour one of the greatest of all Englishwomen, but it would be chiefly built by the hands of thousands of Nurses all over the world, and would arise through their initiative.

Miss Nightingale's work, however, was many-sided. It embraced not only the reform of nursing, but of hospitals in virtually their every aspect; of health and sanitation in city and country in many essential phases; and of numerous other social questions of recognised importance.

Because of this it seems clear to me that we should not attempt to carry out this enormous undertaking by ourselves alone, but should have allied with us individuals and groups fittingly representing Miss Nightingale's other interests and activities, and energetically supporting the whole movement."

The members of the Advisory Committee present were entirely in sympathy with Miss Nutting's views, and agreed to report to the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses, which meets in April, and recommend that an invitation should be sent to the members of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee I.C.N. to meet Miss Nutting in London, in June, to discuss the scheme, if she could possibly attend as the guest of the National Council. It was also agreed to make various enquiries concerning an appropriate site for the Foundation—should the scheme receive the world-wide support it deserves.

After further discussion the meeting terminated.

We already have a statue of Miss Nightingale appropriately placed near the Crimean Memorial in Lower Regent Street, but bronze is a hard medium through which to keep alive the loyal affection of the world's nurses. We need a more human touch.

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