

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

It is great good news that Miss M. Adelaide Nutting, R.N., Emeritus Professor of Teachers' College, New York, may possibly come to London this summer to consult with the members of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee, as to organization and the form the Foundation shall take. If she comes, Miss Nutting will, we feel sure, be the means of inspiring the movement with the vitality required to make for success—as her admiration for Miss Nightingale's genius is only equalled by her devotion to her memory.

It is good news also that representative members of the Nightingale family have expressed interest in the proposed Nurses' International Memorial, we shall hope for their sympathy and help in the future.

All the nurses in the world must combine to do honour in this connection to the greatest law giver in nursing and health.

In our report of the Montreal International, we notified that the official, organ of the International Council of Nurses the "I.C.N." was given a new title—*The International Nursing Review*. Before us we have the first number, in its new form, and though not bound in its very attractive cover of white, blue and silver, which we much regret, the letter-press is excellent, the paper good—and the matter exceedingly interesting to those who realise the world wide sisterhood of Nursing.

Sister Bertha Wellin of Stockholm—a member of the Riksdag (Swedish House of Parliament) and Chairman of the Publications Committee of the I.C.N., writes the Editorial and sends around the world an inspiring message in support of the *Review*. "We can," she says, "and must maintain spiritual contact, and by so doing we increase our strength and widen our opportunities for a fuller development of the possession and of each individual member. We all of us serve the cause of promoting health and caring for the sick, we are faced with the same tasks and have assumed the same responsibilities. Let us help each other rightly to understand and gladly to fulfil the duties that this great calling which it is our privilege to pursue, has entrusted to our hands and our consciences." To prove the international nature of the *Review* we need only mention contributions from Dean Annie W. Goodrich of Yale School of Nursing on "University Schools of Nursing," Miss Elizabeth Kong on "Nursing Service in the Demonstration Health Area of Peping," China. Articles from experts on "The Professional Nurses' School of the Dames of St. Vincent de Paul, Cracow, from Luxemburg, Holland, Germany, Canada, Australia, U.S.A., and notes from Great Britain and many other countries. Our *Review* should be subscribed for by all up-to-date Nursing Schools, it is worthy of careful study, and can be obtained from the Secretary, I.C.N., 14 Quai des Eaux-Vives, Geneva, Switzerland.

The International Council of Nurses will be represented by Mlle. Chaptal, our President, and Oberin Zehetner, our Associate National Representative for Austria, at the Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council of Women to be held in Vienna from May 26th to June 7th.

We may remind members of National Organizations affiliated to the International Council of Nurses that Mrs. Sigridur Thorvaldsson, who is the Associate National Representative for Iceland of the International Council, and President of the Icelandic Nurses' Association, will be pleased to assist any nurses who propose to visit Iceland on the occasion of the celebration of the Thousandth Anniversary of the foundation of the Parliament of Iceland (from June 26th to 30th), to make their stay as interesting as possible. Her address is 14, Tjarnargata, Reykjavik, Iceland.

SOME INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE STUDY OF NURSING HISTORY.

By Isabel Maitland Stewart.

One of the chief points of interest during the Congress of the International Council of Nurses held in Montreal was a joint meeting of the History of Nursing Societies of Teachers College and McGill University.

Nurses having a special interest in the history of nursing were requested to meet with the members of the two Societies at luncheon at the Hotel Windsor. About one hundred and fifty nurses representing many countries attended. The writer, the official representative of the Teachers College Society, was asked to preside, and after telling briefly of the origin of the first Society about three years ago, as an outgrowth of the history of nursing classes in Teachers College, she outlined the objects of this association as follows:—

1. To provide a means for bringing together students and others who are interested in the serious study of nursing history, including international relationships.
2. To foster sound methods of historical study and to encourage the preparation and publication of reliable articles and reports dealing with nursing history.
3. To collect and preserve authentic historical material relating to nursing, hospitals, public health, etc., which is likely to be of direct and vital interest to the student of nursing history now or in the future.
4. To honour pioneers and leaders who have made substantial contributions to nursing history, and to cultivate and maintain cordial relations with representatives of nursing in our own and other countries.
5. To keep in close touch with current developments in nursing, both national and international, and to cultivate the long view and the broad view in dealing with modern problems in nursing.

The Chairman further mentioned the interest which the Society at Teachers College was taking in the Adelaide Nutting Collection of nursing books, letters and other historical material, and also in collecting materials for its own archives. Among the many guests who had been invited to speak to the group on historical subjects was Dr. Maude Abbott, of McGill University, editor of a memorial volume to Sir William Osler and author of *Florence Nightingale through her Portraits*. Out of this contact the sister Society was formed at McGill University in 1928.

Miss Hill, the President, and Miss Whitehead, the Secretary, of the McGill Society, gave a brief report of their organisation, which has at present seventy members. Each class in the history of nursing automatically becomes heir to and is responsible for the archives of the Society. One of the main objectives of the Society is to encourage and carry on research with the idea of compiling a History of Nursing of Canada. The booklet, *Pioneers of Canada*, which was on sale at Headquarters, was the result of their first year's work.

The Chairman brought forward the suggestion made by several members of these two Societies, that a way should be found to promote similar societies in different countries and perhaps some kind of international organisation of history of nursing societies, with a central body as a clearing house for information and materials. It was decided to postpone any permanent organisation until more groups had been started and it was more clearly seen what kind of organisation would best suit the purpose. Student nurses as well as graduates might want to form history of nursing groups, and there a number of historians, physicians and others interested in the history of nursing; it was therefore believed to be best not to limit the membership to graduate nurses.

The Chairman was authorised to appoint a Committee

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