

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

THE PARIS-BRUSSELS CONGRESS, 1933.

Time flies, and it is good to know that Mlle. L. Chaptal, President of the I.C.N. and Chairman, Committee on Congress Arrangements, and Miss J. Hellemans, Chairman, Committee on Congress Programme—are already actively engaged drafting proposals regarding our next Congress to be held in Paris-Brussels in the summer of 1933.

We always like to be well ahead and have pleasure in publishing the following communication addressed from Headquarters to the Members of the Board of Directors.

The Advisory Committee on International Affairs of our National Council of Nurses will be summoned to consider the draft programme submitted, early in February—and we advise the Hon. Officers, Presidents and Delegates composing our Grand Council to read it carefully and send in any suggestions or criticisms they desire to make to the Hon. Secretary, Miss S. A. Villiers, to 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, so that we may begin to take an active interest, in the most helpful spirit, in this great professional event of 1933.

Already we are glad to hear delegate funds are being discussed, and a little saving month by month will enable many Nurses to attend and enjoy the great quadrennial Congress of the International Council of Nurses at Paris-Brussels.

DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR THE PARIS-BRUSSELS CONGRESS.

To the Members of the Board of Directors.

DEAR BOARD MEMBER,

Your Committees on Congress Programme and Arrangements would like to submit to you hereby some proposals regarding our next Congress in Paris-Brussels in 1933, so that you may discuss them with your National Organization and come to the Meeting of the Board of Directors in Geneva next June or July prepared to take a final decision in regard to the points mentioned.

I. Date for Congress.

It is suggested that the Congress should take place between June 15th and July 15th, as this would probably be the most convenient time for both visitors and hostesses.

II. Duration of Congress.

With regard to the duration of the Congress, it is proposed that three days should be spent in Paris (Monday to Wednesday inclusive) and two days in Brussels (Thursday evening to Saturday inclusive), Thursday morning and afternoon being reserved for travel and sightseeing on the way.

Should the above arrangement seem satisfactory, would it be agreeable that the *Board of Directors* begin their meetings in Paris on Monday of the week preceding the Congress and that the *Grand Council* meet already on Thursday in the same week, in order that Saturday afternoon and Sunday may be spent wholly or partly in excursions and entertainments of various kinds? And furthermore, that the meetings of the Board of Directors be concluded in Brussels on Monday afternoon in the week following the Congress?

III. Travel Agency.

It is suggested that Thomas Cook and Son should be requested to take over the arrangements in regard to travel,

planning of itineraries and lodgings in connection with the Congress, and that requests in this last respect be passed to the agency in question by the local committees in Paris and Brussels arranging matters.

IV. Registration Fee.

As the Congress is to take place in two different cities, it is considered that not less than \$2.00 or its equivalent should be asked at the time of registration in Paris (the Registration Fee at Montreal was \$1.50); the Committees in Paris and Brussels will then arrange between themselves that three-fifths of the total amount be used to cover expenses in Paris and two fifths to cover expenses in Brussels.

It is suggested that *all the main papers of the Congress* be printed in English, French and German, and that bound collections of the papers in each language separately should be made available for an additional registration fee of \$1.00; the funds accumulated in this way should cover the expenses of translating and printing as far as possible. The preparation of this matter is to be undertaken by International Headquarters, and the type to be set up in a French printing press near Geneva, thus facilitating subsequently the issuing of the Proceedings of the Congress Report.

V. Printed Programme.

The suggestion is put forward that the programme be printed in the three languages mentioned above, and that advertisements be canvassed to cover expenses.

VI. Exhibition.

As the Congress is to take place in two cities, it is deemed unpractical to arrange for any exhibits.

VII. Translations During Meetings.

As it is probable that the English, French and German-speaking groups respectively will be more equally distributed than was the case at Montreal, it is proposed that experienced translators be engaged for all meetings where discussion will take place. Translation of the main papers will be superfluous if these are available in printed form in the three languages at the time of registration.

VIII. Some Suggestions as to the Plan of Sessions at the Congress.

As you will remember the attendance figure for the Montreal Congress was more than 6,000, and it is estimated that 4,000 to 5,000 may be expected at the Congress now being arranged.

Discussions are universally considered a most valuable part of any international meeting, but at so large a Congress as the one we anticipate, these discussions cannot be satisfactorily arranged for in *General Sessions*. It is therefore suggested that General Sessions be only four or five in number, namely (1) Opening Session, (2) Session for Reports of National Associations, (3) Introduction of newly-affiliated National Associations, (4) Public Evening Session, and (5) Closing Session.

It is proposed that the main emphasis be laid on *Sectional Meetings*, of which four could be held simultaneously. Each Sectional Meeting should be devoted as far as possible to one special branch of nursing, such as nursing education, administration of hospitals and schools of nursing, public health nursing, private duty nursing, mental nursing, rural nursing, etc. At each Sectional Meeting one main paper should be provided, which the speaker should be allowed twenty minutes to summarize and which should be available in its entirety in print. This should be followed by a number of speeches, arranged for in advance (for instance ten speakers being selected to speak ten minutes each), after which the Meeting should be open for discussion from the floor, each speaker being allowed five to ten minutes and the names to be sent up to the Chairman.

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