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## EDITORIAL.

### THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES. MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The fountains mingle with the river  
And the rivers with the ocean.  
The winds of heaven mix for ever,  
With a sweet emotion;  
Nothing in the world is single;  
All things, by a law divine,  
In one another's being mingle—  
Why not I with thine?

The Fourth Meeting of the Board of Directors of the International Council of Nurses met in Geneva on Monday, June 29th to July 1st, and accomplished an immense amount of useful work under the Chairmanship of the President, Mlle. Chaptal of France. Delightful social functions added greatly to the usefulness of the Meeting as the amenities of nations owe now so much more to "conversations" than to the written word.

There were present Mlle. Chaptal, President; Miss E. M. Musson, Treasurer; Miss C. Reimann, Secretary; and the following members of the Board:—

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick (Great Britain), Miss Elnora E. Thomson (United States), Miss Charlotte Munch (Denmark), Sister Bergliot Larsson (Norway), Mlle. Parmentier (Belgium), Miss Alice Reeves (Irish Free State), Miss Anna Nordstrom (Finland), Miss Madge E. Abram (India), Miss B. G. Alexander (South Africa), and Generaloberin Lübben (Germany).

From the Report of the Secretary, it was realised how great had been the strain of the increasing activities at Headquarters—what with correspondence, visitors, the compilation of what is becoming one of the most invaluable assets of the International—the Library containing the bound and unbound volumes of the journals of affiliated National Associations, works on nursing, in book and pamphlet form, and sections dealing with social service, national health, including midwifery, and analogous subjects.

The *International Nursing Review* required a full-time assistant editor—and this new officer was recognised as very necessary, and was wisely added by the Board in the reorganisation of officials at Headquarters. How difficult it would be to select an expert was realised when the matter came under discussion. The competent Nurse Journalist is indeed a *rara avis*!

The Board was pleased to learn from its very capable Treasurer, Miss E. M. Musson, that the International was solvent, and that the nurses of the United States had in the past year contributed no less than £1,400,

and those in Great Britain £700 towards the upkeep of their international organisation, the value of which to the world is inestimable.

The President presented very inspiring Reports on the Paris Congress arrangements and programme for 1933, supplemented by Mlle. Parmentier as to arrangements in Brussels; evidently time was being taken by the forelock by our kind hostesses in both cities, and great interest in the Congress has already been aroused. A most interesting Report was presented by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick as Chairman of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee, which was adopted. Mrs. Fenwick read a most thoughtful and suggestive letter from Miss M. A. Nutting on steps to be taken in this connection, and the Board accepted suggestions and appointed a sub-committee to report on the following day. This committee presented a brief Report, and recommended (a) that the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee be extended by the inclusion of the Presidents of all federated National Associations; (b) that when it has formulated more concrete suggestions influential persons in each country shall be included in the organizing Committee, and (c) the Board suggest that the Foundation should be in London, that it should be of an international character, and a living memorial—not a museum; the suggestion which most appeals to the Directors assembled in Geneva is that the memorial shall take the form of an endowed Foundation for post-graduate nursing education.

The Report of the sub-committee was adopted without amendment—so that definite steps towards the realisation of the perpetual recognition of the genius of Florence Nightingale by the Nurses of the world and of those who sympathise with their aim may now go forward, we hope, with enthusiastic support.

Vacancies on the Standing Committees were filled as follows:—

Miss Isabel Macdonald—Chair; Private Duty Nursing.

Miss Elnora E. Thomson—Congress Programme.

Miss Margaret Breay—Revision of Constitution and Bye-Laws.

Miss Mary Roberts—Committee on Ethical Standards.

Of the courtesy and kindness with which the members of the Board were entertained by the President and Miss Reimann we need only say we all had a lovely time, and, as for Mont Blanc, he showed himself in sun-kissed glory nearly every day, and was awarded worshipful admiration.

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