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EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, REGISTERED NURSE.

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## EDITORIAL.

### A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

With the swift passage of the months once more it is our duty and our pleasure to express our cordial good wishes to our readers near and far for the coming year. From the recently qualified probationer to those who have attained the highest distinction in their profession may they all have a successful and happy year in 1932. Especially do our sympathies go out to those who see visions and dream dreams that their visions and dreams may materialise, though the road may be rough and long before attainment is reached.

To all members of the affiliated Associations of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain of which this Journal has been the official organ for over a quarter of a century, we send cordial greetings, and to that great company of nurses throughout the world of all nationalities and colours, bound together by the strong cord of international federation we send warm greetings, with happy memories of the past, and looking forward to meeting many dear friends at the Paris-Brussels Congress in 1933 when we shall foregather under the leadership of Mlle. L. Chaptal, President of the International Council of Nurses in these lovely cities. Of this we are quite sure, that all those who have ever attended a Congress convened by the International Council of Nurses will wish to do so again, and for nurses in Great Britain and Ireland the distance is so short that, we believe, a large contingent from these islands will have the happiness of being present.

### THE GROWTH OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Now that the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain is a large and influential body it is interesting to record its foundation which, like other important nurses' organisations originated with the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

At its meeting on October 26th, 1899, it was agreed on the proposition of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick:—

"That the Matrons' Council form a Provisional Committee to consider the organisation of a National Council of Nurses, in view of affiliating with the International Council of Nurses."

In moving the Resolution Mrs. Fenwick said that though the growth of a National Council of Nurses might be slow it was important that some professional body should be authorised to represent British nurses officially in relation to the International Council of Nurses.

The Resolution was unanimously approved and it was agreed to empower the Executive Committee to act as a Provisional Committee in this relation. Mean-

while Miss Isla Stewart continued to hold the position of Hon. Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses until a National Council was fully formed, and it was in this capacity that she convened a meeting of self-governing Leagues and Societies which was held in London in April, 1904, "To discuss organisation with a view to International Affiliation."

Mrs. Fenwick prefaced her remarks by reading the resolutions which would later be put to the meeting. These were:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable for the promotion of unity and mutual understanding between associations of trained nurses that National Councils of Nurses be formed.

"That in furtherance of this object those present at this Conference recommend that a Provisional Committee be formed of delegates from Societies of Nurses represented at this meeting with a view to affiliation with the International Council of Nurses."

These Resolutions were carried unanimously. Miss Stewart in her concluding remarks congratulated the meeting on the afternoon's work which she believed would have very far-reaching consequences.

From association came that sense of professionalism which inculcated a high standard of conduct obtainable in no other way. Higher standards of conduct and ethics were produced by the cultivation of a feeling of personal responsibility than by the enforcement of any laws which could be laid down.

From this beginning has evolved the present National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, composed of 29 self-governing affiliated Associations, including the Leagues and Associations of some of the largest Training Schools in the Kingdom.

The Council had the honour, together with the American Nurses' Association and the German Nurses' Association, of being the first federated Associations to form the International Council of Nurses at Berlin in 1904. It sent an important delegation to the Interim Conference in Paris in 1907, it organised the great Congress in London in 1909, recognised by King Edward VII, entertained by the Lord Mayor of London, and the American Ambassador (Mr. Whitelaw Reid) and other notable personages. In Cologne in 1912 the delegation was of such outstanding importance, and rendered such conspicuous services, that it received the official thanks of the late Sister Agnes Karll, President of the International Council of Nurses and of the German Nurses' Association, and at the meeting of the Grand Council in Copenhagen in 1922, of the Grand Council and Congress at Helsingfors 1925, Montreal in 1929, and also at the Interim Conference in Geneva in 1927 it sent strong delegations.

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