

## INTERNATIONAL NURSING NEWS.

In reorganising the official staff for Headquarters, the Board of Directors of the I.C.N., at its meeting at Geneva in June, agreed to the appointment of an Assistant Editor to help Miss Reimann with the arduous work of issuing the *International Nursing Review*, the official organ of the Council, a post somewhat difficult to fill, as so few graduate nurses add a knowledge of journalism to their qualifications; this, of course, is not singular, as editorial journalism is a very skilled technical profession, requiring years of study and practice, and a natural flair, which few professional nurses possess.

When we returned from Geneva we looked around, but failed to locate a woman with the dual qualifications required.

The position has now been allocated to Miss Jean Egbert, an American nurse, who has accepted the position with some trepidation, as her journalistic experience has not been extensive. Miss Egbert, however, has many qualities which will enable her to avail herself of experience, and which we feel sure she will turn to good account upon the behalf of our international organ, and we all know that where there is a will there is a way. Miss Egbert in 1918, after two years in college, entered the Rochester General Hospital, Rochester, New York, for a three years' term of training, after which she returned to California, where her family reside, and spent the winter in the Children's Orthopaedic Hospital School. After a summer in France, she returned to California, and taught school for two years. Since then she has had the great experience of spending a spell covering a year and six months in Labrador, in touch with the great Sir Wilfred Grenfell; here Miss Egbert found the work fascinating, the people hard-working, hospitable fisher folk—everyone who knows Sir Wilfred loves him, and his policy of non-denominational, international work makes for great unity and breadth among the workers. For two summers Miss Egbert has immensely enjoyed the work as nurse at a girl scout camp on Lake Ontario. A winter at the Hôpital d'Enfants, at Reims, France, with Dr. Marie Louise Lefort, she found intensely interesting. In 1928 she was sent in a unit of twenty to Porto Rico to do cyclone relief work, with the Red Cross. This she found distressing though very interesting work—the hardest part was to leave for need of funds, when so very much required doing.

Upon returning to the States, Miss Egbert went to East Harlem Nursing and Health Service, and had nearly two years of splendid public health training and experience. In the summer of 1930, she was sent to New Mexico by the Commonwealth Fund to organise county health work, with a county of 90 by 100 miles, containing mountains 8,000 to 12,000 feet high, roads impassable much of the year, people scattered on isolated ranches, or in wee villages; work was not lacking, and she found the people most interested and appreciative. About 70 per cent. were Spanish-speaking and some had never seen a town or train or many of the ordinary things of civilised life. A nurse is there continuing the work.

Miss Egbert was advised and recommended by Miss M. M. Roberts, the Editor of the *American Journal of Nursing*, to attempt her new work, and put in six weeks intensive study of detail in the office of the *American Journal of Nursing*, interviewing the leaders of nursing in the United States, studying typewriting, book-keeping, etc., in preparation for work at Headquarters. Well!—there is some record of energy, all-round experience of places and people, which can be utilised as occasion requires. Miss Egbert speaks French and Spanish, and is tackling her new work with all the good will in the world.

Passing through London, on her way to Geneva, Miss Egbert spent the day at the Headquarters of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, and was shown the activities carried on at 39, Portland Place, the files and offices of the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*, the pioneer Nurses' Journal, edited by Nurses, and the room in which our National Council holds its meetings.

There she met Miss E. M. Musson, the Treasurer of the I.C.N., who said a word in season of a financial nature. Miss Egbert flew away to Paris to call on our International President, Mile. Chaptal, *en route* for pastures new. We feel sure she will have the sympathy of her colleagues in the arduous duties she has undertaken—who are eagerly awaiting the issue of their international official organ, now long overdue.

E. G. F.

### THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE.

Since making a report of the names of Presidents of National Associations who have accepted the invitation of the Board of Directors of the I.C.N. to accept a seat on the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee, we are pleased to learn that Miss C. Munck, Denmark, Miss Venny Snellman, Finland, Frau Generaloberin Lübben, Germany, Miss Jadwiga Romanowska, Poland, and Mrs. Socarro Salamanca-Diaz, the Philippines, have consented to serve.

### THE HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES, 1899-1925.

It is hoped that copies of the Booklet on the History of the International Council of Nurses, from its foundation to 1925, will be available next week. Price 5s., including postage. Orders should be sent to Miss Villiers, Hon. Sec., N.C.N., 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, by those wishing for one or more copies.

### A SHORT HISTORY OF NURSING.

G. P. Putnam's Sons have not yet on sale in London through their New York house, the new Third Edition of "A Short History of Nursing," by Lavinia L. Dock and Isabel Stewart. We hope this work will soon be procurable on this side of the Atlantic, as it will be an invaluable text-book for the examination of probationers on this interesting subject.

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