

## THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

The February issue of *L'Infirmière Française*, edited by Mlle. Chaptal, the President of the International Council of Nurses, intimates that already the National Association of Trained Nurses of France are actively engaged with the arrangements for the meeting of the International Council of Nurses and the Congress to be held in Paris in 1933, and the first meeting of the organising committees was held on January 26th at the house of Mme. la Maréchale Lyautey, at which a large number of eminent persons were present.

The National Association of Trained Nurses of France was represented by its President, Mlle. Chaptal, Mère Catherine d'Ornellas, Vice-President, Mlle. de Joannis, General Secretary; Mlle. Grenier, Assistant Secretary, and Mlles. Delagrangé, Hervey, Leconte and Lefebvre, the majority, if not all of whom are familiar friends to those who attended the Montreal Congress.

The proceedings were opened by the Maréchale Lyautey, who emphasised the importance of the end to be attained, and informed those present that the three Red Cross Societies were entirely willing to work together for the most effective way for the organisation of the International Congress, and for the reception of the delegates from all countries.

Mlle. Chaptal spoke next and reviewed the history of the International Council of Nurses. She described the Reunions in Helsingfors in 1925, and Montreal in 1929, which augured brilliantly for that of Paris in 1933, and urged that all committees for social and professional organisation should be constituted without delay. It was agreed that the overtures necessary for the establishment of the first committee should be made conjointly by Mme. la Maréchale Lyautey and Mlle. Chaptal.

There followed a discussion on the preparation of the above committees, upon which some of those present agreed to accept office, and a division into sub-committees was immediately decided upon. Thus (1) localities of reunions, and quarters for Members of Congress; (2) Receptions and fêtes; (3) Visits to hospitals and social organisations in Paris and the Provinces; (4) Propaganda and Publicity; (5) Finance. It will be seen that our International President and her supporters are very thorough in their scheme of preparations, and we look forward with interest to further information in successive *Bulletins* as the committees get to work.

It is interesting to learn that the National Association of Trained Nurses of France, which is affiliated to the International Council of Nurses, will this year hold its Annual General Assembly on March 29th at the Faculty of Medicine, Bordeaux, under the chairmanship of its President, Mlle. Chaptal. In addition to the business transacted by the Statutory Assembly, there will be a Reception at Bagatelle, and a visit to the Florence Nightingale Hospital and School, where tea will be provided by invitation of Dr. Anna Hamilton.

Particularly interesting arrangements have been made for visiting nurses to see visiting nursing organisations, institutions, and for groups of nurses to visit institutions in the neighbourhood of Bordeaux.

Bordeaux has been chosen as the place for the Annual General Assembly of the National Association of Trained Nurses of France because the National Tuberculosis Congress will be held there on March 30th.

## NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

### MENTAL HOSPITAL MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

We have received from the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association the Annual Report and Roll of Membership for 1929 and 1930, which contains much interesting matter and is excellently printed and produced. We congratulate the Hon. Treasurer, Miss S. C. Hearder, on a balance in hand of £37 5s. 7d. at the end of the financial year.

A meeting of the Mental Nurses' Association will be held at the Royal British Association of Nurses' Club on March 14th, at 3 p.m., followed by a Lantern Lecture by Miss Isabel Macdonald.

### LEAGUE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW HOSPITAL NURSES.

We have pleasure in publishing the following letter, and congratulate the Appeal Committee on the splendid success. This is the second bed endowed by the League at St. Bartholomew's Hospital—to which institution past members of the staff are admitted if necessary and receive the most skilled medical and nursing care.

DEAR MADAM,

Referring to my letter to you in October last asking you to be good enough to publish particulars of an appeal in connection with the endowment of a bed at St. Bartholomew's Hospital by the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, I am desired by the Appeal Committee to acquaint you that the appeal has been entirely successful, over £1,000 having been subscribed, and to convey to you their sincere thanks and appreciation for the valuable help which you were good enough to give through the medium of your widely read publication.

Yours faithfully,

E. MARY DELL,  
*Hon. Secretary,*

Appeal Sub.-Committee.

### UNEMPLOYMENT—THE ACUTE PHASE.

The American Nurses Association notifies:—

On December 11th Headquarters sent 110 letters to individuals, secretaries and presidents of State Associations in the United States, on the subject of unemployment. These letters, which were signed by the President, Elnora E. Thomson, and issued at the vote of the Board of Directors, stated that unemployment throughout the country appears more widespread than in former years. The letter asked the co-operation of the States in securing answers to the questionnaires which were enclosed. Before determining on the advisability of any relief measures on a national basis, data is needed as to the exact situation throughout the country. These questionnaires, to be sent to every hospital and registrar, therefore asked for such data as will throw light on employment conditions this year in comparison with several previous years. This information will be compiled and presented to the Board at its January meeting.

"It is our opinion," wrote Miss Thomson in her letter to the States, "that as the acuteness of the situation has focussed attention on nurses' unemployment, we should work toward a solution which can have permanent value. It is our hope that this acute situation will be temporary and that, therefore, in addition to our plans of a permanent character, we should take action which will help the nurses who may need temporary aid to carry them over this period. Our traditions have certainly been along such lines."

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