

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The half-yearly Meeting of the National Council of Nurses will be held on Wednesday, April 26th, at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 4 p.m. As there will be important business in connection with Amendments to the Constitution of the International Council of Nurses to consider, it is hoped Members of the Council will make every effort to attend.

Since we published in our last issue the Itinerary adopted for the Travel Programme, Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son have been able to effect a small reduction in the fares previously quoted.

The revised fares are :—

Hotels.	Without				With			
	Private Bathroom.		Private Bathroom.		Private Bathroom.		Private Bathroom.	
	Single Room.	Double Room.	Single Room.	Double Room.	Single Room.	Double Room.	Single Room.	Double Room.
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Grade "A" ...	12	0 0	—	—	14	5 0	13	0 0
Grade "B" ...	10	17 6	10	8 0	12	8 6	11	6 6
Grade "C" ...	10	4 6	10	2 0	11	18 6	10	10 6
Grade "D" ...	9	2 0	8	18 0	—	—	—	—

These latest fares are shown in the final travel programme which has now been issued.

THE ASSOCIATION OF HOSPITAL MATRONS.

The Association of Hospital Matrons held a meeting in the Medical School, at the London Hospital, on Saturday, April 1st, and the members were most genially welcomed by Miss Littleboy, the Matron. A sale of charming and useful articles was arranged—in aid of funds to send representatives to the I.C.N. Congress in July—through which it was hoped a grant might be made towards the expenses of some half-dozen members. Miss Lloyd-Still, the President, was in the Chair, and Miss Cox-Davies, Hon. Secretary, conducted the business with dispatch. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who had been invited to speak on "The Programme of the International Congress at Paris-Brussels" in July, alluded to the founding of the I.C.N. in London, in July, 1889, its aims and scope, and reminded the audience that "electricity, wireless and aviation had reduced the world to the size of a nut," with the result that Britain was no longer an island, and that international relations in the Nursing Profession had already been acquired through the organisation of the International Council of Nurses—based on sound autonomous principles. Thus British Nurses had, during the past quarter of a century, come into touch, and cemented friendship, with their colleagues all over the world.

They had met and consulted together in England, U.S.A., Germany, France, Denmark, Finland and Canada—and in July next they were to gather together to give and take knowledge and social amenities, in Paris and Brussels—an experience most valuable and enjoyable to a body of women engaged in one of the most inspiring professions in the world.

Mrs. Fenwick explained the Constitution of the I.C.N. The work of its Board of Directors—formed of the Officers and the Presidents of the 23 countries federated in the Council. An Executive Body—The Grand Council—composed of Officers, and the four Official Delegates—elected and deputed to represent the National Associations—and the Congress in which every member of affiliated National organisations, had the right of speech and vote. She then discussed the Amendments sent forward by the National Council of Great Britain—on finance, and secretarial

organisation at Headquarters in Geneva—and later touched on the Programme arranged for the Congress—and hoped there would be ample time secured for discussion from the floor—as such discussion was of the utmost value in keeping the constitution and progress of the profession alive. Mrs. Fenwick hoped that a large number of Members of the N.C.N. would attend the Congress—they would receive a very warm welcome both in Paris and Brussels—such gatherings had fostered lasting friendships in the past, and should play a very useful part in cementing the good will of nations in the future.

Votes of thanks were proposed and carried to the President, Miss Lloyd-Still, in the Chair, and to Mrs. Fenwick for her address. Miss Littleboy welcomed all to a lovely tea, and many of those present expressed their intention of attending the forthcoming Congress.

THE NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

THREE DECADES OF WONDERFUL WORK.

"Nurses Near and Far, the monthly Leaflet of the Nurses' Missionary League contains this month "A Record of Thirty Years, 1903-1933," which in a few pages gives an outline of the wonderful work accomplished by the League at home and abroad.

It is interesting to read of its foundation :—

"Thirty years ago, on June 16th, 1903, a meeting was held in Hampstead, at which the Nurses' Missionary League (or Union as it was called for three years) was formally inaugurated. For months previously the idea of such a union had been discussed by little groups of friends, including Dr. Catherine Ironside (of Persia), Miss Mildred Cable (of China), Miss Zöe Fairfield and Miss Edith Overton, who were connected with the Student Volunteer Missionary Union. These pioneers were inspired by a two-fold vision : (1) an army of trained nurses going forth to work in mission hospitals in lands where physical suffering was almost unalleviated and opportunities for nursing service were unlimited ; (2) a fellowship of nurses banding themselves together in the hospitals at home for mutual help in prayer and Bible study and dedicating their lives to the service of God at home or overseas. It was a very great adventure which was undertaken by the Committee and by the first Secretary, Miss Kathleen Miller. Courageous faith was, however, rewarded ; gradually openings were obtained in various London Hospitals, small branches were started, and the membership roll lengthened.

"A few landmarks of the early years may be mentioned. In 1906 the quarterly magazine, *Nurses Near and Far*, was first issued, and the first tour in the Provinces was undertaken by Miss Miller. In 1907 the first "Camp" was held, the Our Own Mission Fund was started, and Miss B. B. de Lasalle was appointed Travelling Secretary for the North (a post which she held until 1911). During this year also the resignation of Miss Miller, on health grounds, was followed by the appointment as General Secretary of Miss H. Y. Richardson, who still holds this post, and to whom the League owes more than can ever be recorded.

"The first decade saw the work firmly founded on the lines upon which all its development has proceeded in later years ; and it was full of encouragement when the Great War broke out in 1914. The following years were fraught with great difficulty. A large proportion of members were called up for active service, and they worked in all parts of the war zone and in every branch of service. Missionary members in Africa, Palestine, and N.W. India had their share of war nursing ; and all mission hospitals had to be carried on with terribly diminished staffs.

"It is wonderful to record that the League's work was

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