

representatives, and more than 700 nurses attended it, the largest contingents coming from Great Britain and France. The choice of place was fortunate—Geneva, the Headquarters of the Council—the cradle of Liberty—full of historical associations, incomparably situated on its lovely Lake, at the foot of Mont Blanc, and on the highway to many lovely beauty spots and to the gateway of Italy. To have all these in addition to an International Nursing Congress was a magnet to attract those who know what those magic words imply.

Miss Nina D. Gage, the President, presided at the opening Session, and responded to the Address of Welcome from M. Jean Uhler, President of the Administrative Council of the Town of Geneva, and it was a happiness that Mrs Bedford Fenwick, Founder and Hon. President, was once again able to be present at an International Meeting, and preside at the first General Session, urgent professional business in Great Britain in support of the Nurses' voting powers on the General Nursing Council of England and Wales having prevented her attendance at the Congress in Helsingfors.

The most important happenings in the Conference were that the Board of Directors reported that a Standing Committee had been appointed to consider the Nurses' International Memorial to Florence Nightingale, also that the Canadian Nurses' Association had invited the International Council of Nurses to meet in Montreal in 1929 and that the Board had accepted the invitation, and the important suggestion made by Miss Gill on the last evening of the Conference, seconded by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and unanimously approved, that the Board of Directors should be invited to consider a scheme for the interchange of nurses between the different countries where there were Associations of Nurses affiliated to the I.C.N.

Reference can only be made to a few of the most outstanding events. Such were the Reception by the Town of Geneva, the guests being received by M. Marcel Brunet, President of the Municipal Council, M. Jean Uhler, and other civic dignitaries, the beauty of the place of reception, the entrancing music, the generous hospitality, all made the occasion one to be stored in the memory.

Then we were received with all honours at the Palace of the League of Nations, and next morning at the International Labour Office, almost equally palatial. The Boat Ride on the beautiful Lake, the changing views of the surrounding coast-line, the lovely mountains, and the intercourse, friendly and intimate, possible during the long afternoon, between nurses of many nationalities and creeds was a rare experience.

Of ineffaceable memory is the visit paid, by invitation of their Founder and Director, Dr. Rollier, to the Heliotherapeutic Establishments at Leysin, who, with Mme. Rollier, munificently entertained to lunch and tea some 250 members of the Conference. The fame of these Establishments for the treatment of all forms of tuberculosis, and the results achieved by the tonic action of the sun, and the open air life on the mountain side, as applied by the genius of Dr. Rollier, has spread around the world, but to see the treatment in action, and to come into direct contact with men, women, and especially children who are being restored to health and happiness through its means, was to be penetrated by a joy too deep for words.

So ended a lovely week.

#### MONTREAL, 1929.

The Meeting of the Grand Council and the great Congress of the International Council of Nurses in Montreal is still so close to us that to write of it scarcely seems to be writing nursing history, and yet indeed it is an event whose history both in making and accomplishment is worthy to be

written in letters of gold, and can in no wise be adequately related in a short space. Special gratitude is due to the Canadian Nurses' Association because it took over the organisation of the Congress with only a brief two years in which to make the arrangements, and then it was confronted with the tragic death of its honoured and beloved President, Miss Flora Madeline Shaw, who had attended the meeting of the Board of Directors at Geneva, and was returning to Canada, primed with much useful information as to former Congresses, when after an acute illness of a few days' duration she died in the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, where she was the guest of the Lady Superintendent, Miss M. Jones, pending her departure. Prior to the removal of her remains to Canada, Memorial Services were held both in the Infirmary Chapel, and in the Lady Chapel of Liverpool Cathedral.

The organisation of the Congress therefore devolved upon the new President of the Canadian Nurses' Association, Miss Mabel F. Hersey, Matron of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Miss Mabel K. Holt, Matron of the Montreal General Hospital, Joint Convener of the Committee on Entertainment, Miss Frances Upton, Executive Secretary, and a host of other members of the Association associated in Committees. The hospitality and organisation was such that Miss Upton stated that accommodation had been provided for some 99 per cent. of the overseas Nurses, that the Committee on Housing had combed Montreal over and she really believed that it had secured "every respectable bed."

The Meetings of the Board of Directors, and most of those of the Grand Council, were held in the week preceding the Congress proper. Their members, together with the International Officers, were privileged to receive an invitation to spend the day in Ottawa—a golden day of happy memories. We were conveyed there, as the guests of the Canadian Pacific Railway, in a special train, and made the return journey as the guests of the Canadian Northern Railways. Into that day were crowded a visit to the noble Parliament Buildings, where the Carillon in the Peace Tower played the British National Anthem, and then those of other Nations on our arrival, and where in the beautiful centre lobby the Honble. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister, who had returned from his vacation for the purpose, speaking in the name of the Government of the Dominion, extended to the International Council of Nurses "a very, very hearty welcome." Miss Nina Gage, President of the I.C.N., expressed the appreciation of the Council of the Premier's presence and kind words, and then, together with Mr. Mackenzie King, those present passed on to the Hall of Fame, where Miss Margaret Breay, acting for Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, placed at the base of the Nurses' Memorial a wreath of palms tied with a broad purple ribbon bearing in letters of gold the words "In honoured Remembrance from the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain."

From the Parliament Buildings we were taken to a country club where we were the guests at luncheon of the Victorian Order of Nurses, and were received by its President, the Right Honble. Senator George P. Graham, Mrs. Graham, and others. Mention must be made of the lovely peonies which decorated the table—a feast of colour—cream, pale pink, deep pink, rose. Indeed, though the Maple Leaf is the Canadian Emblem, it seemed to us that the peony is the National flower. After a drive round the beautiful city, and tea at the various Legations, we were entertained at a brilliant Banquet given by the Registered Nurses of Ottawa, at which Miss G. P. Garvin presided. Would that space permitted an adequate account of all the happenings of this "golden day."

At the opening Meeting of the Board of Directors a letter was read by the President from Mrs. Bedford Fenwick

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)