

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES GRAND COUNCIL.

REPORTS OF AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS.

We extract the most important points from these Reports.

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF BELGIAN NURSES.

President: Miss J. Hellemans.

The work of the Federation during the period 1929 to 1933 has been mainly concentrated on the post-graduate training of its members. It has been supported in this task by its affiliated organisations, now numbering fifteen, with a total of 976 members.

Federation for Belgian Schools of Nursing in the drafting of legal regulations in connection with trained nurses, with a view to the safeguarding and development of our profession. We earnestly hope that our efforts will be brought to a successful conclusion, since the necessity of such measures is being felt daily.

Since the beginning of the economic depression, all our efforts have been concentrated in an endeavour to diminish unemployment for nurses, and much has been done to avert this menace.

Although several firms have been obliged to dispense temporarily with the services of a nurse, the new law which enforces the employment of a public health nurse by all benefit funds has offered some compensation.

We have for a long time past felt the need of a Home for nurses who are no longer able to continue in active



A Group of the World's Nurses at Chateau Courance.

The majority of these organisations arrange refresher courses annually for their members. Furthermore, the visiting Nurses' Association of Belgium holds annual courses of three days' duration in Brussels. All these courses, which are of much help to the profession, are attended by many religious and lay nurses throughout the country.

At meetings of the affiliated organisations a lecture dealing with a professional subject or a technical demonstration is given for the benefit of members. These study circles and lectures are excellent for educational purposes and keep the nurses up-to-date on all questions of professional interest.

Demonstrations of nursing technique are also arranged by the Section of Directors of Schools of Nursing attached to the Federation of Belgian Nurses; they are held at the Nurses' Club in Brussels during the winter months.

During the last year we have joined with the National

employment. The Nurses' Club and an anonymous friend have guaranteed part of the annual cost, and the scheme is now being carried out.

Nursing in Belgium has made great strides since the war, and if, as we confidently hope, the inspection of nursing schools by a trained nurse is secured, the profession should make even greater progress in the future. The number of candidates for admission to schools of nursing is large, and the preliminary course which is enforced in the majority of schools enables a proper selection to be made, thus maintaining a high standard.

The International Red Cross Committee awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal as a reward for their devotion in the cause of nursing in 1929 to Mademoiselle J. Hellemans, President of the Federation since its foundation, and in 1931 to our Vice-President, Mademoiselle C. Mechelynck.

In concluding this report, we beg to tender our sincerest

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)