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EDITORIAL.

THE NURSES' INTERNATIONAL YEAR.

July 1st, 1899, a date predestined with adventure for Nurses all the world over! It was on that auspicious day that a few imaginative Matrons in conference in London glanced "beyond the world's most purple rim" and visioned International Unity in the ranks of Trained Nurses.

A high-hearted little group indeed! "Off to Mars," as one of them remarked, herself in the forefront of the flight.

Thirty-four years ago National Nursing Organisation was in its infancy, and failing national organisation, how attain international unity? That was a question the explorers left to the grace of the gods. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said, "Let an International Council of Nurses be founded." Isla Stewart in the Chair, Margaret Huxley, Margaret Breay, Lavinia L. Dock, Agnes Snively, Grace Neill, Charlotte Norrie, and the members of the Matrons' Council present agreed, together with the late Mrs. May Wright Sewall, founder of the International Council of Women, who gave the aspiration her blessing. No "wireless" in those days to carry the inspiration to the nurses of the world, all eager to respond to the sense of professional duty. Lavinia Dock took up her staff and script and sallied forth, and the success of the movement was mainly due to her unique personality—a personality so selfless in its devotion to humanity, in its brilliance and *bonhomie*, that success could not fail to result from her mission. Suffice it to say that thirty-four years later, we find the organised nurses in 23 countries federated in the world-wide International Council of Nurses, and visualise them in their thousands preparing to participate in the quadrennial meeting of their Governing Body, the Grand Council of the I.C.N., and its Congress to be held in Paris—Brussels in July, when experts in nearly every branch of modern nursing will take part in the deliberations, and associate in delightful social intercourse, perhaps the most valuable asset of the convention. In studying the Programme which we publish in this issue, we realise that our welcome in two of the finest capitals in the world will be officially gracious, and that the International Council of Nurses will receive the recognition it deserves as the premier international organisation of professional women in the world, whose sphere of value to mankind cannot be excelled.

How far the influence and power of the I.C.N. has extended can be realised by a glance at its press. Not

only are Official Delegates and members to attend our Congress in thousands, but we find other international bodies are availing themselves of the benefit of association with us as closely as possible.

Thus the International Hospital Association, which has promoted a Nursing sub-committee through facilities available in our I.C.N. office, has arranged its third international Congress to meet at Knocke-s-Mer, on the Belgian coast, from June 28th to July 3rd, to be followed by a five days' study trip to the Netherlands. Thus no doubt it will attract the attendance of members of the I.C.N. in Europe for their own quadrennial meeting.

The International Committee of the Catholic Association of Nurses, sailing from New York, hope to attend the I.C.N. Congress, en route for their meeting at Lourdes, immediately following the close of our Congress in Brussels.

In connection with our members the New Travel Course in Nursing Education, offered under the auspices of the International Institute and the Department of Nursing Education of Teachers' College, Columbia University, will enable a study group to visit England, France, Belgium and Poland this summer, in charge of Professor Isabel Stewart. They will take the Congress at Knocke and the Paris-Brussels Meetings in their stride, and the *American Journal of Nursing* states "with the assistance of the International Council of Nurses arrangements for travel and living accommodations have been made for this Study Group at very moderate rates."

The Canadian Nurses have taken time by the forelock, several round trips have been arranged *en route* to Paris. Thus one party will visit Edinburgh, the Lake Country, London, and historic bits of France, and all at inclusive very moderate cost through the I.C.N.

It appears, therefore, not only is the I.C.N. recognised as the Nurses' Parliament, but as the benevolent Mother of the Nursing World.

Surely results have justified that flight to Mars in 1899!

THE FAITH THAT IS IN US.

The International Council of Nurses stands for self-government by nurses in their associations, with the aim of raising ever higher the standards of education, professional ethics, and public usefulness of their members.

The International Council of Nurses stands for that full development of the human being and citizen in every nurse, which shall best enable her to bring her professional knowledge and skill to the many-sided service that modern society demands of her.

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