

not done. The International Council of Nurses has been a professional organisation from the date of its foundation, and the National Council of Women had nothing whatever to do with its formation. See BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, July 8th, 1899.

We recently received a letter from a young nurse of inquiring mind who writes: "You once told me that when Miss Dock, the first Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, came over from the States to study nursing conditions, before attempting to organise the world's nurses, she sat hour after hour at 431, Oxford Street, reading from cover to cover the back volumes of the then *Nursing Record* (now "B.J.N."), just to grasp the inspiration of the first nursing journal in the world edited by a trained nurse. I have recently enjoyed diving into the prehistoric conditions of nursing to be found in its early issues and wonder if it would not be possible to have some of this valuable history republished from time to time. What a pity so few complete files of this tireless work are extant, so that the authentic history of the organisation of the Profession of Nursing could be available for study by our young nurses who know little or nothing of the struggle which constituted Nursing a profession in 1919."

After reading this letter we took from our file Vol. I of *The Nursing Record*, the first issue of which is dated Thursday, April 5th, 1888, and cast an eye over its early issues. Alas! it would appear we have still a long way to go to attain those altitudes of professional unity for which we craved close on half a century ago. At the same time if only persons who have no right to govern us would leave us to our fate, all would be well. If only these patrons would realise that "registered nurse" and "congenital idiot" are not synonymous terms, hope might spring eternal in the nurse's breast.

We read through those inspiring articles on Honour, Purity, Courage and Discipline, by the late Miss Mollett, and which no doubt would be described as "tosh" by those who object to Nursing as a vocation and who consider Nursing "a job," and then turned to "Hospital Sketches." These little papers would, we think, be worthy of reprinting at the present time, and we propose to quote them as space permits.

Miss B. G. Alexander, R.R.C., President of the South African Trained Nurses' Association, and Mrs. Bennie have been returned unopposed to the South African Medical Council, which controls the examination and registration of nurses and midwives in South Africa, and are thus elected for a further period of five years. Miss B. G. Alexander was recently elected Second Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses at its meeting in Paris, and is deeply interested in the promotion of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

We are informed that the United Nursing Services Club, Ltd., will be closed for redecoration from Sunday, February 11th, to Monday, March 12th, 1934. The following Clubs are kindly giving hospitality:—

- The Empress Club, 35, Dover Street, W.1.
- The Cowdray Club, 20, Cavendish Square, W.1.
- The Sesame Club, 49, Grosvenor Street, W.1.
- The V.A.D. Ladies' Club, 28, Cavendish Square, W.1.

The King of Sweden, the Crown Prince and Princess, and Princess Ingrid attended the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Sophia Nursing Home at Stockholm, which was founded by the late Queen Sophia in 1884.

During her stay in England before 1884, Queen Sophia consulted Florence Nightingale, and she decided to open a school for the training of nurses in her own country on English lines, and a Sister trained at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, was engaged for the purpose.

Since its inauguration the home has trained 1,400 nursing Sisters, and has played a great part in the hospital development of Sweden.

Queen Sophia of Sweden was a wonderfully simple-minded and intelligent woman. As editor of this Journal we held correspondence with her on nursing matters. She was deeply interested in the Meeting of the International Council of Nurses held in London in 1909. Approved by the Queen, Miss Thérèse Tamm was deputed to superintend the Swedish contingent of nurses who attended the Congress, and upon her return to Sweden stayed as a guest with the Queen, who, having taken a most sympathetic interest in the Congress, desired to hear all about it.

Queen Sophia was a subscriber to the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING until her death.

The Swedish Nurses' Association now form a greatly valued unit of the International Council of Nurses.

### DONATIONS TO THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE SCHOLARSHIPS FUND.

The following Donations have been received since our last issue in support of the Florence Nightingale Scholarships Fund Appeal of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. The Donations now amount to £1,640 4s. 2d., £1,000 of which sum was given to provide four Scholarships, 1933-1934.

Third Donation from—	£	s.	d.
Miss A. Charters, Matron, and the Nursing Staff of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne, towards a complete Scholarship, making £57 0 0 to date ...	12	0	0
The Nursing Staff of the Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, 306, St. Vincent's Street, Glasgow ... ..	2	2	0
	£14	2	0

### POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

Replies are now being received from National Nursing Associations of Nurses in reply to the letter sent to the Presidents from the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee, International Council of Nurses, last November.

Since our last issue £40 has been received from the National Council of Polish Professional Nurses, through Mrs. Helena Nagorska, the Treasurer, as a Donation to the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, and from Czechoslovakia, Miss Zdenka Dolenska, President, sends the good news that together with the Red Cross Society of Czechoslovakia a National Committee is being formed in the hope that once every three years one of their nurses can be sent for a post-graduate course in London.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)