

Constitution of the Memorial, but a Florence Nightingale Advisory Committee, representative of the Nurses who had contributed so much more than the sum asked for, had been appointed by the National Council of Nurses, and on that committee, she was proud to inform them, Miss Cowie had been elected to further Scottish interests.

Interesting details of the Paris-Brussels International Congress were given by League members. Miss Robb told of the visits to the British Hospital and the Pasteur Institute in Paris, describing the efficiency of the cubicle system, privacy being secured for the patient without sacrificing thorough supervision by the staff. An amazing number of animals were to be seen, all contributing their quota to the cure and treatment of disease.

Miss Moyes gave a short account of the Edith Cavell Memorial Hospital in Brussels, where she found the arrangements for the children very attractive. Speaking of the social functions, she expressed her appreciation of the magnificent architecture and tapestries of the famous Hotel de Ville, where the guests were received by the distinguished Burgomaster Max, who will long be revered for the great qualities which stood the test of the German occupation of Belgium's capital. We heard, too, of the Royal Palace at Laeken, where the Council were presented to the Queen of the Belgians, who afterwards passed through the ranks of international delegates, accompanied by the British President, the beloved Founder of the International Council and by Mlle. Chaptal, President I.C.N., 1929-1933. We rejoice, said Miss Moyes, in the recognition of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's unequalled work for the profession by the Decorations given by both France and Belgium.

Miss Cowie said she had felt the Congress to be a wonderful experience and inspiration; so many nations represented, a miniature League of Nations with untold possibilities of mutual helpfulness. Among the professional discussions and demonstrations, she mentioned Intelligence and Psychology Tests in the choice of probationers, and Films of Nursing Procedure. In America, much more has been done in these directions, and the careful statistics given were a revelation of the importance attached to such work.

Apart from its nursing aspects, the Congress had opened up new interests and developed old ones. They had seen and listened to a delightful exhibition of Folk Dancing and Songs resembling in many ways our own Scots products; not the fire in the dance music, perhaps, but the sprightly part songs and quaint duets were different from anything we have.

Fontainebleau and Versailles, which we succeeded in reaching, will stay in our memories as pictures of the costly magnificence of Louis XIV, the golden splendour, beloved by Marie Antoinette, whose dainty beauty still seemed to linger there. Fontainebleau holds the tragedy of Napoleon's abdication; the replica showing the blotted line touches even the heart of the stranger. And then the Grande Place of Brussels and the historic Hotel de Ville make a powerful appeal to the imagination. The gallant and romantic figure of Egmont, the burly form of the bold and blunt Horn rose on the inward eye, and from the adjoining window, the cruel face of Alva looked once more on the victims of his ruthless vendetta.

And to pace the Halls in which "there was a sound of revelry by night"—the night before Waterloo! We shall not forget the thrill of it all.

The crowning climax of the Congress was the Pageant in the Trocadero, presided over by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, in which she displayed her histrionic skill. The reception of the new representatives, in few but inspiring words; the grouping of the standard bearers; then the Procession of Nursing Pioneers, heralded by the introductory sketch

of the distinctive contribution of each by Miss Hillyers and Mlle. Mechelynck, and culminating in the great prototype, Florence Nightingale, her very self, it seemed, in gentleness, dignity and grace as presented by Miss D. Bridges; this pageantry will be indelibly fixed in the minds of those of us who had the good fortune to witness it.

Miss Macdonald put the finishing touch, by presenting us to each of the stately and gorgeous Royal Nurses who adorned the stage, fitting the picture of each into a frame of allegory, and telling her story in the beautiful language which she has at command.

That the International Council of Nurses has become the greatest living force for the uplifting of nursing throughout the world was universally acknowledged at its Paris-Brussels Congress in 1933.

THE LEAGUE OF SISTER TUTORS.

The Annual Meeting of the League of Sister Tutors was held on January 27th at Clive Court, Maida Vale, at 6.30 p.m.

The meeting opened with the ceremonious procedure of placing Miss Le Beau, the newly elected President, in office, and Miss Nelson as the new Treasurer. The Annual report was read, and the business of the moment discussed, this gave place to an interesting debate and obviously the Sister Tutors are very much alive to nursing difficulties of the moment, for their sound knowledge brought forward very sound ideas and propositions for the future.

The Annual Dinner followed, served in the restaurant where each guest had a wee card especially suitable for herself designating her seat.

The toasts were drunk to the League, Miss Le Beau, Miss Nelson and Miss Ballard. The evening was most enjoyable and a great success.

H. G. BALLARD,
Hon. Secretary.

THE AUSTRALIAN TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

"A PERI OUTSIDE PARADISE."

We are pleased to note in the *Australian Nurses' Journal* that it is hoped that by 1937, when the next International Congress will be held in London, that the Australian Nursing Federation will be in a financial position which will enable it to complete the negotiations for much-desired affiliation with the International Council of Nurses. We had the pleasure of meeting Miss Vicars-Foote of Melbourne, and Miss Burchell of Adelaide, at Paris-Brussels, in July, and deplored with them that Australia was the only important Dominion whose nurses were not yet federated in the I.C.N. We need them and they need us, and we sincerely hope London will see them part of our splendid International Federation in 1937. We shan't be happy till we get them. "I feel like a Peri outside Paradise," we were told in Paris, although the Australian representatives were given the warmest of welcomes.

On Remembrance Day, in accordance with the annual custom, a floral tribute was placed before the Canadian Nurses' Memorial in the Hall of Fame at Ottawa.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S ROYAL NAVAL NURSING SERVICE.

Miss Catherine C. Renwick, head sister at the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, has been appointed head Sister-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, on the retirement of Miss M. L. Hughes, on March 10th.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)