

## THE NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

### THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

We are officially informed that by direction of the President of the International Council of Nurses, Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, R.R.C., the following telegram was sent by her to Mlle. Hellemans, President of the National Federation of Belgian Nurses, on receiving the sad news of the death of Queen Astrid of the Belgians:

"Nurses throughout the world offer deepest sympathy to King and Belgian Nurses in tragic loss of your beloved Queen."

### THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Time takes home that we loved,  
fair names and famous,  
To the soft long sleep, to the broad  
sweet bosom of death;  
But the flower of their souls he shall not  
take away to shame us,  
Nor the lips lack song for ever that now  
lack breath. *Swinburne.*

Would that silence shadowed grief, but how then express human sympathy one with another?

During the last few days, since the passing hence of "our beloved, sweet little Astrid," the world has, with tears, witnessed the poignant grief of a stricken and heroic man, following on foot to the grave the woman he loved. That he was a King makes no matter.

Realising that it would be the wish of the Nurses' National Council in this country to offer an expression of dutiful sympathy to the Belgian Royal Family, Miss Margaret Breay, Hon. Treasurer of the Council, attended at the Belgian Embassy in Eaton Square, S.W., and inscribed the Book open for the purpose, as its representative.

She also delivered a letter to the Belgian Ambassador, signed by the President, requesting him to convey an expression of the profound sorrow of the members of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain to His Majesty the King of the Belgians and the Belgian Royal Family, on the death of Queen Astrid.

On Tuesday, September 3rd, the day on which the funeral of Queen Astrid took place in Brussels amidst scenes of sorrow and tears, a Requiem Mass was sung in the Westminster Cathedral, at which the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Chevalier de l'Ordre de Léopold, was present to represent the National Council.

This exquisitely touching Memorial Service was attended by vast crowds of all classes of people.

Their Majesties the King and Queen were represented by the Earl of Granard. The Prince of Wales and other royal persons were also represented. Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, and Major-General the Earl of Athlone attended in person, together with the Belgian Ambassador, Baron Cartier de Marchienne, and representatives of every Embassy were present, gorgeously attired. By the King's command, flags were flown at half-mast on the Houses of Parliament and all other Government buildings, on the occasion of the funeral in Brussels.

A colleague who witnessed the Lying-in-State of the

dead Queen, writes that she "will ever retain the memory of the Soul's Light in her face."

She smiled in death, and still her cold pale face  
Retains that smile; as when a waveless lake,  
In which the wintry stars all bright appear,  
Is sheeted by a nightly frost with ice,  
Still it reflects the face of heaven unchanged—  
Unruffled by the breeze or sweeping blast!

### THE INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

#### Meeting at Darvell Hall Sanatorium.

The Annual Meeting of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association was recently held at Darvell Hall Sanatorium, Robertsbridge, Sussex, by the kind consent of the Management.

Members who attended the meeting from London travelled by coach, and the climax to a lovely journey was when the travellers drove through the entrance gateway of this fine old Sussex estate of Darvell Hall along the beautiful winding drive to the main building, where they were most courteously welcomed by the Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. R. Dingley, and the Matron, Miss J. Edgar, A.R.R.C.

The Annual Meeting was held in the Board-room, the President, Miss M. Drakard, being in the Chair.

The Hon. Officers, Miss Drakard, President; Miss B. M. West, Hon. Secretary, and the Hon. Treasurer, Miss A. S. Bryson, were unanimously re-elected for the ensuing year, Miss J. T. Ruddy was elected a Vice-President.

In the course of the transaction of business it was decided to send a letter to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to protest against the inclusion of questions on Tuberculosis Nursing in the Examination for Fever Nurses. It was pointed out that many Fever Hospitals did not admit tuberculosis cases, and that nurses could not in these circumstances receive practical training in this branch of work.

The date of the next Meeting was arranged for October 5th to be held by the kind invitation of Miss Annie Robinson, Matron at Lodge Moor Hospital, Sheffield.

The Meeting concluded with a warm vote of thanks which was carried unanimously to Miss Edgar for kindly making such admirable arrangements for the delightful afternoon and to the Committee of Management for giving the Association the privilege of meeting at Darvell Hall.

Then followed a tour of the Main Staff Quarters and the Hospital.

On entering the main building, at one time the house of the estate and now converted into unique quarters for the Sanatorium Staff, an atmosphere of homeliness and welcome was manifest. Some parts of this beautiful old house date back from 1722.

The entrance hall, designed in the charming proportions of the period, the spacious drawing-room, dining-rooms and library now the Staff sitting-rooms, the wainscoating and fine specimens of old Sussex grates, skilfully fitted with electric fires, retain the old-world charm combined with modern comfort, and it would seem that all the staff rooms on the ground floor are sun traps, where large French windows lead to the nurses' putting lawn and gardens where a magnificent cedar tree, over 700 years old, commands admiration. A beautiful staircase leads to the first floor, where equally delightful rooms have been adapted for staff bedrooms, every room is perfectly equipped and tastefully decorated. These rooms have been so skilfully adapted that each has long windows revealing glorious Sussex country. Some of the bedrooms are equipped with hot and cold water, and all are supplied with head-phones for listening in, for which 2d. a week is paid. There is also a room where the Staff may do laundry work, where

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)