

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

We have received from Headquarters a copy of "The Educational Programme of the School of Nursing," prepared by Miss Isabel Stewart (Chairman of the Committee on Education of the I.C.N.), with the assistance of other members of the Committee, including representatives of 28 affiliated countries and of 10 corresponding members, Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, and Miss Gullan (Sister Tutor of St. Thomas' Hospital), acted on the Committee for Great Britain.

This report will be laid before the Board of Directors of the I.C.N., at their next meeting at Geneva, in July, when official recognition will be sought. Meanwhile, it is issued for information and consideration only, and can be obtained from Miss Anna Schwarzenberg (Executive Secretary, I.C.N.), 14, Quai Gustave Ador, Geneva, Switzerland, price three Swiss francs per copy, post free. Every member of the Executive Committee of our National Council should obtain a copy without delay. The Committee on Education met for the first time in Helsingfors, Finland, in 1925, to discuss plans for this curriculum study, which was undertaken at the request of the Board of Directors. The purpose of the study was to focus attention on the need for well-organised educational programmes in nursing, and to make available to nursing schools in all countries the best ideas which this representative group could bring together from their varied experience and common deliberations.

The work has been thoroughly and conscientiously done, and will repay careful study by members of the Board of Directors before giving it official consideration and recognition. The Heads of Nursing Schools and their Sister Tutors cannot fail to appreciate this exhaustive Educational Programme, co-ordinating as it does the opinion of practical professional women throughout the world.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, which will meet on Wednesday, April 24th, will have before it an Agenda of important business for consideration, including "The Educational Programme of the School of Nursing." It is to be hoped, therefore, that there will be a very representative gathering, as an expression of opinion on various recommendations may be invited. We have to keep in mind that, as the hostess National Council of the International Council and Congress to be held in London in 1937, we must soon begin our work of organisation with zest, and to make it the success of its predecessors will need a wholehearted united effort.

THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The Florence Nightingale Advisory Committee met on Friday, March 22nd, at 39, Portland Place, W.1, to interview candidates making application for the Florence Nightingale Scholarship, financed by the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. Three candidates presented excellent credentials, and one selected by ballot was nominated for confirmation by the Executive Committee, and endorsement by the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain, through which Committee the Scholarship is offered to the Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

THE NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING

Miss D. S. Coode has been elected President of the College of Nursing, and during her term of office has an *ex-officio* seat on the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. Miss Coode is very well known in the Nursing world owing to her long connection with the Nightingale School at St. Thomas's Hospital where she was trained. At the end of training she was appointed by the Nightingale Council Sister in Charge of the Nightingale School, which at that time included the theoretical education of nurses. During this period the preliminary training school was in progress of being organised and Miss Coode was interested in its inception, and was largely responsible for its development and organisation. She was later appointed Assistant Matron, which post she held from 1924 to 1933. Miss Coode is the Chairman of the Education Committee of the College of Nursing, and a member of the Bedford College Committee for the Organisation of International Courses for the Florence Nightingale International Students. We feel sure the appointment will be very popular.

MENTAL HOSPITAL MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The quarterly meeting of the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association was held at the Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W., on Saturday, March 2nd.

Miss Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., was in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed and signed. The correspondence was read by the Hon. Secretary, Miss Taylor.

The two members who were due to retire in rotation from the Executive Committee, Miss Pirie and Miss McNicol, were re-elected.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Association at Cell Barnes Colony, St. Albans, by the kind invitation of Dr. Burke and Miss Ashford.

After the business meeting Miss Pocock, S.R.N., of the Eugenics Society, addressed the members.

It was unanimously decided to send a copy of the following resolution to the Minister of Health: "That the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association, having considered the report of the Departmental Committee on Sterilisation and being in general agreement with the recommendations therein, urge upon the Government the need for the introduction of a measure to legalise voluntary sterilisation in conformity with the said recommendations."

It was agreed to consult the National Council of Nurses on a question of nursing discipline and efficiency.

THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON STERILISATION.

Notes of Lecture by Miss Pocock, S.R.N.

Miss Pocock began her address by making the position with regard to the law of sterilisation in England clear. In England and Wales it is within the law to sterilise persons when it is for the benefit of their health, and under that heading a certain number of women are sterilised every year when the doctors consider it would be a danger to their lives to have another child; but as this operation has no direct effect upon an individual's health, it is looked upon as illegal.

There are a few surgeons who will operate upon a mentally normal individual to prevent the birth of physically defective children.

The nature of the operation is salpingectomy and vasectomy, which leaves the sex glands untouched and is not castration.

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