

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

"SHE SLEEPS A HOLY SLEEP."

The sudden death of Miss Clara D. Noyes, first Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses, has been recorded throughout the Nursing Press, with unanimous regret—and in terms expressing sincere admiration for her fearless and distinctive character, and for her notable ability.

The American Journal of Nursing reports that she was buried at Old Lyme, Connecticut, U.S.A., where her family had been established for generations (derived from eminent British stock).

Trained at the celebrated Johns Hopkins Hospital at Baltimore, Maryland (class 1896), she had occupied the very influential position of Director of Nursing Service of the American Red Cross, at Washington, and was en route for her office, when she was stricken whilst driving her car.

Two Services were held. In Washington the funeral cortege passed through an honor guard of uniformed Red Cross Nurses into the Georgetown Presbyterian Church, which was a bower of flowers. The simple and dignified service was attended by representatives of the American Red Cross, the Government Nursing Services, the representatives of the National Nursing Organisation, and many representatives of State Nurses Organisations.

That Miss Noyes had made her position one of world-wide distinction was attested by the abundance and the beauty of the floral tributes and by the telegraphic and cabled messages from many States and many lands.

In the beautiful old Christopher Wren Church in the lovely colonial village of Old Lyme, a second Service was held, representatives of many Nursing activities throughout New England were in attendance. She sleeps in the spot that was dear to her throughout life.

Miss Noyes was three times elected First Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses, in 1925 and again in 1929 and in 1933, and had been nominated by the American Nurses' Association for the office of President—for election in London, 1937. The Council by her death loses a popular candidate.

Nationally, Miss Noyes served her profession in many capacities. Whether as member or chairman of a committee, or as president of an organisation, she approached the task with that incisive intelligence which tended always to result in sound organisation.

She had been elected by her colleagues President of their leading organisations. Miss Noyes was the recipient of many honours both at home and abroad, of which she was frankly proud.

Of Miss Delano, her predecessor as Director of Nursing Service of the American Red Cross, she wrote at the time of her death: "The influence of a great mind and spirit lives on indefinitely." And so will it be with her own.

As the Greek poet has written of death: "He sleeps a holy sleep; say not that good men die."

FAREWELL.

I must go. Farewell!
The door is open, and the bell
Rings in the aerial tower;
Take my land, my love, my power,
Take all dross from me.
Now on the dark hill leaps the fire,
Now blooms the rose upon the briar,
Now blows the conch across the sea.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

We have received the following letter of thanks from the President of the American Nurses' Association, for presentation to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, for its expression of sympathy on the lamented death of Miss Clara D. Noyes.

AMERICAN NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

July 20th, 1936.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President,
National Council of Nurses of Great Britain,
39, Portland Place, London, W.1, England.

MY DEAR MRS. FENWICK,

On behalf of the American Nurses' Association, I wish to thank you for the cablegram of sympathy regarding the death of one of our most beloved nurse leaders and associates, Miss Clara D. Noyes.

Your cablegram was referred to me in Los Angeles, California, where I was attending the Biennial Convention of the three National Nursing Organisations, in which Miss Noyes was to have had an important part in the program and business meetings. All the reports of the work for which Miss Noyes had been responsible during the past biennium, had been written and had been received at American Nurses' Association Headquarters, well in advance of the meetings, as were also her greetings to the Joint opening meeting of the Biennial Convention.

Those who had been privileged to work with Miss Noyes realise, with us, our great loss and deep sense of sorrow.

Again permit me to thank you and the members of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain for their expression of sympathy.

Very sincerely yours,

SUSAN C. FRANCIS, R.N., President.

NIGHTINGALE BRICKS.

The following letter has been received from Miss E. Ruth Bridges, who has just completed her year's study as a Nightingale Scholar, from New Zealand, at Bedford College, and who asked for the gift of a "Nightingale Brick" for the new Nurses' Home at the Invercargill Hospital, New Zealand:—

"DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK—

"I have a letter from the Southland Hospital Board, Invercargill, New Zealand, in which they write:—

"We would like you to convey on our behalf the Board's thanks to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, for complying with your request to have the great work of Florence Nightingale commemorated by this means in the Board's new Hospital and Nurses' Home."

"The Brick has duly been incorporated in the Foundation Stone of the Nurses' Home, with suitable inscription, and I have word to the effect that the whole appearance is dignified and simple.

"Thanking you again.

"I am yours faithfully,

"E. RUTH BRIDGES."

Gifts of "Nightingale Bricks" have recently been made to Miss Emily Nutsey, Matron, Auckland Hospital, New Zealand, and to Miss Bell, late Matron, the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Australia, for the Nurses' Home of the new Hospital to be built there.

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