

THE AMERICAN NURSING WORLD.

THE 1936 BIENNIAL.

The Bulletin for June, just to hand, is full of interesting items in connection with the National Biennial Nursing Convention, held in Los Angeles from June 21st to 26th, and reports "That Californian Nurses, Californian skies and Californian sunshine all gave a radiant welcome to the thousands of nurses who attended the meeting." Hospitality was boundless, and "even the Los Angeles Sheriff invited the nurses to a cup of tea in jail—with a visit to the prison thrown in!"

Meetings.

The Convention programme was filled to the hilt with interesting meetings of all kinds. Meetings started early—in fact, officers of the association started the day around 5.30 a.m., in order to assemble facts, materials and ideas necessary to assure the smooth running of sessions.

Approximately 6,000 nurses registered, and several thousand more, though omitting the detail of registering, attended the meetings.

The Florence Nightingale Memorial Service.

The California State Nurses' Association, with the aid of the Los Angeles District Nurses' Association, arranged a beautiful memorial service to Florence Nightingale, as a forerunner to the Convention. It was held in lovely Hollywood Bowl, that first Sunday afternoon, just as the sun was sinking behind the hills. Easily 10,000 people—most of them nurses—were there to enjoy the service. A large chorus of nurses in uniform, under the able direction of Hugo Kirchhofer, filled the air with their songs. Mrs. Chester C. Ashley, a member of the Board of Directors of the local Red Cross Chapter, welcomed all visitors, and Susan Francis, President of the A.N.A., greeted the throng. Then Miss Goodrich, incidentally in competition with the mocking birds, gave a short inspiring address about the Florence Nightingale International Foundation. The "Finale" of the service was the brief appearance of Kay Francis on the stage, dressed in the charming costume in which she portrays Miss Nightingale in Warner Brothers' new film, "The White Angel."

Funds for Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

The Board of Directors of the American Nurses' Association recommends that state associations, through their district associations, take advantage of the generous opportunities offered by Warner Brothers, producers of "White Angel," to raise money for the Florence Nightingale International Foundation. Letters to this effect are going to all state associations with lists of dates on which the picture will be shown in various localities.

Walter Burns Saunders Medal Award.

Approximately 7,000 nurses attended the Joint Opening Session held Monday evening in the Shrine Auditorium. Tribute was paid at that meeting to Clara D. Noyes, for so many years National Director of the American Red Cross Nursing Service, whose sudden death, on June 3rd, caused a real loss to the nursing profession. The greetings which Miss Noyes had prepared and had looked forward to giving were read by Mary M. Roberts in her stead. The climax of that evening was the presentation of the Walter Burns Saunders Memorial Medal. It was awarded to M. Helena MacMillan, Director of the School of Nursing and Superintendent of Nurses of the Presbyterian Hospital, Chicago, for her distinguished service in the field of nursing education. Elnora Thomson, Director of Nursing Education at the University of Oregon and a former student of Miss MacMillan's at Presbyterian, made the presentation.

Decisions.

Discussion at most of the meetings was unusually free, stimulating and helpful. Some of the decisions reached were:

1. That the 1938 National Biennial Nursing Convention be held in Kansas City, Missouri—(early in the year, before it gets too hot!)

2. That the Headquarters offices of the A.N.A. remain in New York City with the other two National Nursing Organisations.

3. That a national nurse placement service is a desirable joint activity for the three National Nursing Organisations to sponsor, provided that such a service include vocational counselling, vocational guidance and placement, and that it work closely with and through the state nurses' associations. A committee with representation from the three National Nursing Organisations is to be appointed to determine how best such a placement service can be developed.

4. That the N.L.N.E. accept responsibility for accrediting schools of nursing on a national basis; that a standing committee on accreditation be appointed to consult with state leagues and state boards of nurse examiners regarding the setting up of the accreditation programme and putting it into action; and that the committee be authorised to complete the plan and put it into operation.

ELECTED OFFICERS.

American Nurses' Association.

President: Susan C. Francis, R.N., Pennsylvania; 1st Vice-President: Julia C. Stimson, R.N., District of Columbia; 2nd Vice-President: Mabel M. Dunlap, R.N., Illinois; Secretary: Helen Teal, R.N., Indiana; Treasurer: Emma Nichols, R.N., Massachusetts; Directors: Mrs. Harriet Fleming, R.N., California; May Kennedy, R.N., New York; Mrs. Elizabeth Soule, R.N., Washington.

National League of Nursing Education.

President: Nellie X. Hawkinson, R.N., Illinois; Vice-President: Elsie M. Lawler, R.N., Maryland (elected by the Board).

National Organisation for Public Health Nursing.

President: Amelia Grant, R.N., New York; 1st Vice-President: Grace Ross, R.N., Michigan.

We on this side warmly welcome the selection of Miss Susan C. Francis, R.N., as President of the American Nurses' Association, and we shall hope to welcome her at the I.C.N. Quadrennial next year in London, in her honourable capacity as the head of the most powerful National Organisation of Nurses in the world.

Do not let us forget that it was the Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, and the United States of America who took the initiative in founding the International Council of Nurses in London in 1899.

THE COMBINATION OF FORCE AND REASON.

"The training which is required in aviation must also teach the value of the achievements of civilization. The responsibility which we incur by creating a powerful destructive force is lightened by the knowledge that this force is being controlled by reason and experience, and that we have separated such a force from ignorance. I find hope in the belief that power which goes hand in hand with knowledge will not be a menace to civilization. The combination of force and reason—that is the mark and the responsibility of the airmen."

Colonel Lindberg,
At the German Air Ministry, Berlin.

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