

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The following Loyal Addresses of Condolence to His Majesty King Edward VIII and to Her Majesty Queen Mary have been forwarded through the official source :—

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

Most Gracious Sovereign,—

On behalf of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, comprising over 36,000 nurses, I desire to express to Your Majesty the deep sorrow of the members of this Council at the death of their beloved Sovereign King George V, of Blessed and Glorious Memory, and to humbly offer their most loyal and respectful sympathy in Your Majesty's irreparable loss.

Signed on behalf of the Council,

ETHEL GORDON FENWICK,
President.

TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY.

Most Gracious Majesty—

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Signed on behalf of the Council,

ETHEL GORDON FENWICK,
President.

These scrolls were engrossed by hand, on vellum parchment, their main features being the dignified lettering (based on Roman characters) in gold, purple and black, and tied with purple ribbon.

PROFESSIONAL SYMPATHY.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, has received the following messages of sympathy on the death of King George V.

From Headquarters, International Council of Nurses, Geneva.

Dear Mrs. Bedford Fenwick,—

May I express the sympathy which will, I feel sure, be felt throughout the International Council of Nurses, for you and the Nurses of Great Britain, at the passing of your beloved King.

Yours very sincerely,

ANNA SCHWARZENBERG,
Executive Secretary.

From the American Nurses' Association, New York, U.S.A. (by cable).

The Members of American Nurses' Association express deepest sympathy in the great loss sustained through the death of King George.

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

From the Nationale Bond Van Verplegenden, Amsterdam.

The Members of the National Nurses' Association of Holland express their deep felt sympathy with the members of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain in their great bereavement by the loss of His Majesty King George.

L. VAN HOGENDORP,
President.

Letters of sincere thanks have been forwarded to the signatories.

THE NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

ASSOCIATION OF HOSPITAL MATRONS.

The Annual Report of the Association of Hospital Matrons for 1935 just issued, formed of trained Nurses who hold, or have held, the position of Matron or Superintendent of Hospitals or Institutions concerned in the training of Nurses or the care of the sick, and of which Dame Alicia Lloyd Still is President, and Miss R. Cox Davies Hon. Secretary, states that the subjects under consideration by the Association during the past year have included (a) Instruction in the use of Gas Masks and other forms of defence in the event of aerial warfare, (b) Hospital Libraries, and (c) Nurse training.

In connection with (a) Instruction in the use of Gas Masks, the Executive Committee has made the following recommendations :—

(1) It is advisable that instruction should be given, having in mind not only the necessity for being prepared for possible aerial warfare, but also that the use of chemical substances in manufactures at the present day brought about many dangerous conditions.

(2) That to avoid undue anxiety such instruction might be made a part of the ordinary fire drill or ambulance teaching, and would be efficiently dealt with by the co-operation of the Medical Staff.

(3) That advantage might be taken of any courses of instruction now being freely organised under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society.

(b) In regard to Hospital Libraries, members were asked to note that facilities were offered for establishing Libraries for patients and Nurses in hospitals on application to the Organising Secretary of the British Red Cross Hospital Library.

(c) Under the heading "Nurse Training" the menace of unemployment amongst trained nurses, and the desirability of increasing the trained staff nurses in hospitals was discussed.

On the twenty-fifth anniversary of the reign of His late Majesty King George V, the Association offered an Address to the King, in which it conveyed its loyal congratulations, and extended to the Queen Consort a tribute of its respectful and affectionate regard.

THE RESIGNATION OF MR. ERNEST J. SWIFT.

It is cause both for sincere regret and also for congratulation that Mr. Ernest J. Swift has resigned his personal participation on the various committees of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, as he took a very active and generous part in its inauguration.

Mr. Swift, until recently the Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, located in Paris, has been appointed Vice-Chairman of the Insular and Foreign operations of the American Red Cross at Washington. It is officially recorded that Mr. Swift may fairly claim that in the past three years he has seen more of the Red Cross world than perhaps any other single living man. In the first year following his appointment he made contacts with every national Society in Europe, and in 1934, taking advantage of the travelling necessitated by the Tokyo Conference, he visited the headquarters of most of the Asiatic Societies. In 1935 a similar opportunity to make acquaintance at first hand with leaders of Red Cross activity in Central and South America presented itself in connection with the Pan-American Red Cross Conference held at Rio de Janeiro, and Mr. Swift—travelling by air to save time—amply availed himself of this opportunity.

For the future we feel sure Mr. Swift will watch the progress of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation with deep interest and continue to remain its very good friend.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)