

After her work for the Army was well under way, she took up the immense question of sanitation in India, and for forty years devoted much time to it. Though Miss Nightingale was a great nurse, she was greater as a teacher, and a genius as regards sanitation.

A chapter is devoted to "A Brief Survey of Nursing in its World-wide Beginnings." Miss Nightingale's plan for the School of Nursing was not that it should provide nurses for private nursing, but that it should train them to go into other hospitals, and there, in turn, teach, train, and organise. Her phrase was "Nursing Missioners." The Nightingale nurses were to be the leaven by which the entire system of nursing service as it then existed was to be altered.

To Edinburgh went a group of "Nightingales" in 1870 to reorganise the Royal Infirmary, to Australia went five nurses, selected by Miss Nightingale, headed by Miss Osborn, a woman of special nobility of character. In Germany the Empress Frederick consulted Florence Nightingale in her plans for hospital work. Sweden and Denmark also sent nurses to be trained in the Nightingale School. From Finland Baroness Mannerheim went to St. Thomas's Hospital to train in the Nightingale School, and Dr. Anna Hamilton visited England before founding a Training School at Bordeaux, which she did on the Nightingale system.

In 1933, Mlle. Chaptal, a noted nursing leader in France, presided, with distinction, as President of the International Council of Nurses at the International Congress which it convened in Paris and Brussels. Her recent death is a grievous loss to the nurses of France, as well as to those in the world at large.

In Belgium, India, Russia, Palestine, the Philippine Islands, South America, Japan, Korea, foundations have been well and truly laid. In the United States of America at Bellevue Hospital, New York, Sister Helen, a member of the All Saints' Sisterhood of London and Baltimore, trained at University College Hospital in London, undertook in 1873 the organisation of a new training school, and later rendered distinguished service in South Africa.

Two pages are devoted to the work of Ethel Gordon Fenwick (Mrs. Bedford Fenwick) *nee* Manson, for the organisation of Nursing, through the British Nurses' Association and the International Council of Nurses. In 1893 realising the vital necessity of a voice in the press for nurses she became the Editor of the NURSING RECORD, since 1896 THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING the first professional Journal of Nursing in the world.

The Civil War in China gave a great impetus to Red Cross work.

The chapters on "The Beginnings and Activities of the National Association of China" are fascinating reading. The real origin of the N.A.C. was a letter from Miss Cora Simpson, headed "A Nurses' Association" which was circulated among nurses in Chinese hospitals and asked "has the time not come for nurses to get together and form an Association of their own"? The beginnings of the organisation of nurses in China started in 1909, when Mrs. Caroline Maddock Hart, R.N., became the first President and Miss Maud Henderson the first Secretary. In 1912 the programme drafted by the Association was accepted and remains practically the same to-day.

The first National Conference of the Nurses' Association of China was held in Shanghai in June, 1914. At this time the Association received its Chinese name, and the name for "nurse" Hu Shih, presented by Miss Elsie Mawfung Chung (the first Chinese nurse to receive her training abroad) was adopted. Miss Chung had consulted the Kang Hsi Dictionary, and many Chinese scholars. "Hu" means "to nourish" or "to care for" and "Shih" meaning "Scholar," or "one who has the degree of knowing how to nourish and care for life." In China, where education

has always been revered through the ages, it was thought necessary to select a word for "nurse" that would at once, and for ever, place nurses on the plane of educated scholars. In 1915 the first diplomas were granted to three students, two men and one woman who had successfully finished the course of training and instruction and passed the N.A.C. examinations.

The next step in progress was in 1920, when Mrs. Mary Hearn was entrusted with the task of starting the "Quarterly Journal for Chinese Nurses," and at the N.A.C. Conference in 1928 Miss Victoria Pou was elected the first Chinese Editor of this publication, and at the same time Miss Shih Hsi En the first Chinese General Secretary. At the Canton Conference in 1924 it was decided that the N.A.C. must begin plans for a permanent Headquarters. In 1930 Dr. J. H. Liu, Minister of Health in the new National Government, intimated that the plan of the Government called for the registration of all nurses in the immediate future, and expressed this earnest desire for the removal of the Headquarters of the Association to Nanking as the experience and files kept by the Nurses' Association of China would be of immense value to it. It was decided to move the Headquarters to Nanking as soon as possible, and this was accomplished in March, 1933.

The examination work, we are told, has been the very heart of the N.A.C. work since the beginning. These examinations have never failed in all the years. They have been carried out amid rain and heat, storm and flood, revolutions and civil wars, famines and disturbances of all kinds.

Finances of the Association.

"We should," says the author, "remember three things. First, the N.A.C. as a member of the I.C.N. has her International place secure. Second, as the Nurses' Association of China, registered with the Government in Nanking, her place in the nation is secure. Third, membership in the N.A.C. is secure to those who keep dues paid and to no others . . . Nurses everywhere should know and realise something of the difficulties under which the Association has been built up on account of having limited finances throughout the years, but on the other hand they ought to rejoice that the nurses have had a self-supporting Association from the beginning. Self support means self government."

Then follows a detailed account of what the N.A.C. does for the Student Nurse, the Graduate Nurse, and for the Health of the Nation.

In April, 1935, Miss Vera Nish was appointed the first Secretary of the Central Board of Nursing Education with her office in the Ministry of Education Building; the second step in registration is the registration of all Schools of Nursing with the Ministry of Education; the third step, Government State Registration for individual nurses which was granted in January, 1936, by the Government of China.

A Cause for Joy and Pride.

"This is surely a cause for joy and all the nurses of China may well be proud. First, that the Government's plan for the registration of schools of Nursing is national in its scope; second, that it is directly under the Ministry of Education; third, that it is in the hands of nurses and being carried out by the Central Board of Nursing Education, and fourth, that the visiting and inspection of schools is being done by a nurse.

Perhaps in no other country in the world have these four things been attained in the early days of registration."

Here we must conclude, though there is much more of extreme interest to which we would willingly allude did space permit. We congratulate the nurses of China most sincerely upon the position they have attained, and Miss Gladys Stephenson upon her skill in presenting this to the world.

MARGARET BREAM.

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