

question?" when discussion had proceeded long enough. Nevertheless, Committees closed at two, three and four o'clock in the early morning to meet again at 8 a.m.

At the close of the Congress the Board of Directors, which under the revised Constitution had succeeded the Executive Committee, met for the inside of a week for the transaction of business. Here again we experienced the lavish generosity of this hospitable country. We were taken a twelve hours' journey by train to Halila, where we were entertained, the entire expense, including the return railway journey, being defrayed by money contributed by the State and the Finnish National Council of Nurses.

Miss Gage, as President, presided over the meetings of the Board of Directors. In this environment closer intimacy between some 30 persons, inspired by a common purpose, the good of the International Council of Nurses, was more possible than in the large gatherings in Helsingfors. One thing especially we noted with sorrow, the evident illness of dear Sister Agnes Karll. In Copenhagen two years previously, though the years had left their mark upon her, she showed all her accustomed vigour and intellectual clearness and acuteness, but in Helsingfors and especially in Halila she seemed at times lost, as if she was far away from us all. Did she indeed envisage that the beginning of the end was drawing near, and that when the International Council of Nurses next met they would miss her visible presence, and commemorate her unselfish life and the part she had played in the development of the I.C.N. with such conspicuous ability.

It was at the Helsingfors Meeting that Miss E. M. Musson was elected Treasurer of the I.C.N., an onerous and difficult task, the duties of which she has discharged ever since.

Those who attended the Helsingfors Congress returned home full of gratitude to the National Council of Nurses of Finland for the pains they had taken to make the visit of their colleagues to their charming country so delightful.

#### THE INTERIM CONFERENCE AT GENEVA, 1927.

The term of four years between the Meetings of the Grand Council and Congress of the International Council of Nurses was arranged under the By-Laws adopted at Helsingfors; power was however given to the Board of Directors to convene Interim Conferences and such a Conference was held in Geneva in July, 1927, in conjunction with a meeting of the Board of Directors. That the opportunity was appreciated was evident from the number of nurses who flocked to it. Thirty-four countries sent representatives, and more than 700 nurses attended it, the largest contingents coming from Great Britain and France. The choice of place was fortunate—Geneva, the Headquarters of the Council—the cradle of Liberty—full of historical associations, incomparably situated on its lovely Lake, at the foot of Mont Blanc, and on the highway to many lovely beauty spots and to the gateway of Italy. To have all these in addition to an International Nursing Congress was a magnet to attract those who know what those magic words imply.

Miss Nina D. Gage, the President, presided at the opening Session, and responded to the Address of Welcome from M. Jean Uhler, President of the Administrative Council of the Town of Geneva, and it was a happiness that Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Founder and Hon. President, was once again able to be present at an International Meeting, and preside at the first General Session, urgent professional business in Great Britain in support of the Nurses' voting powers on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales having prevented her attendance at the Congress in Helsingfors.

The most important happenings in the Conference were

that the Board of Directors reported that a Standing Committee had been appointed to consider the Nurses' International Memorial to Florence Nightingale, also that the Canadian Nurses' Association had invited the International Council of Nurses to meet in Montreal in 1929 and that the Board had accepted the invitation, and the important suggestion made by Miss Gill on the last evening of the Conference, seconded by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and unanimously approved, that the Board of Directors should be invited to consider a scheme for the interchange of nurses between the different countries where there were Associations of Nurses affiliated to the I.C.N.

Reference can only be made to a few of the most outstanding events. Such were the Reception by the Town of Geneva, the guests being received by M. Marcel Brunet, President of the Municipal Council, M. Jean Uhler, and other civic dignitaries, the beauty of the place of reception, the entrancing music, the generous hospitality, all made the occasion one to be stored in the memory.

Then we were received with all honour at the Palace of the League of Nations, and next morning at the International Labour Office, almost equally palatial. The Boat Ride on the beautiful Lake, the changing views of the surrounding coast-line, the lovely mountains, and the intercourse, friendly and intimate, possible during the long afternoon, between nurses of many nationalities and creeds was a rare experience.

Of ineffaceable memory is the visit paid, by invitation of their Founder and Director, Dr. Rollier, to the Heliotherapeutic Establishments at Leysin, who, with Mme. Rollier, munificently entertained to lunch and tea some 250 members of the Conference. The fame of these Establishments for the treatment of all forms of tuberculosis, and the results achieved by the tonic action of the sun, and the open air life on the mountain side, as applied by the genius of Dr. Rollier, has spread around the world, but to see the treatment in action, and to come into direct contact with men, women, and especially children who are being restored to health and happiness through its means, was to be penetrated by a joy too deep for words.

So ended a lovely week.

#### MONTREAL, 1929.

The Meeting of the Grand Council and the great Congress of the International Council of Nurses in Montreal is an event whose history both in making and accomplishment is worthy to be written in letters of gold, and can in no wise be adequately related in a short space. Special gratitude is due to the Canadian Nurses' Association because it took over the organisation of the Congress with only a brief two years in which to make the arrangements, and then it was confronted with the tragic death of its honoured and beloved President, Miss Flora Madeline Shaw, who had attended the meeting of the Board of Directors at Geneva, and was returning to Canada, primed with much useful information as to former Congresses, when after an acute illness of a few days' duration she died in the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, where she was the guest of the Lady Superintendent, Miss M. Jones, pending her departure. Prior to the removal of her remains to Canada, Memorial Services were held both in the Infirmary Chapel and in the Lady Chapel of Liverpool Cathedral.

The organisation of the Congress therefore devolved upon the new President of the Canadian Nurses' Association, Miss Mabel F. Hersey, Matron of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Miss Mabel K. Holt, Matron of the Montreal General Hospital, Joint Convener of the Committee on Entertainment, Miss Frances Upton, Executive Secretary, and a host of other members of the Association associated in Committees. The hospitality and organisation were such that Miss Upton stated that accommodation had been provided for some 99 per cent. of the overseas Nurses,

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