

of scarlet and white gladioli and blue cornflowers interspersed with beautiful palm leaves, bearing the words: "With homage from the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain." And then came a wreath from the British Dominions and the Empire of India and one from the American Nurses' Association. Distinguished members of the Congress then entered the Arc beneath which is the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior to sign the Book of Remembrance.

AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER, AT BRUSSELS.

On Sunday, July 16th, the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and the Nurses of the Dominions placed at the base of the beautiful Colonne de Congrès at Brussels, on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of Belgium, a wreath of red cactus dahlias, yellow roses, green palms and black laurels, with the inscription: "With profound homage and gratitude from the National Association of Nurses of Great Britain and the Nurses of the Dominions."

Another beautiful wreath was placed by the American Nurses' Association at the foot of the column.

Here again an undying flame symbolises the unceasing gratitude of Belgium to the heroes who gave their lives to save their country in the Great War.

THE INAUGURAL MEETING

The Inaugural Meeting of the International Congress of Nurses in Paris held in the Great Hall of the Salle Pleyel, Paris, was presided over by M. Daniélou, the Minister of Public Health, supported by the following speakers: Mlle. Chaptal, President, I.C.N., Dr. Jules Renault, the Marquis de Lillers, Professor Léon Bernard, Oberin A. Brandt, with Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Miss E. M. Musson, and the Hon. Officers and Presidents of National Organisations.

Mlle. Chaptal, the President of the Council, spoke in part as follows:—

Mlle. CHAPTAL'S ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

Mind obliterates time as the heart obliterates distance. Mr. Chairman, Ladies, My Fellow Members and Friends, in the name of the International Council of Nurses, I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for having honoured with your presence, the opening session of the Seventh Congress of the International Council of Nurses.

Founded in 1899 by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who is still to-day the active President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, the International Council has for its main objective the progress of the Nursing Profession in every country of the world.

It is no presumption to say this when our association has 29 affiliated nations, to whose numbers, as nurses elsewhere begin to organise, other countries are steadily added.

The Congress in Paris and Brussels has brought together for the first time 42 nations. From recent statistics we learn that on the first of January last, 200,000 resident or visiting nurses certificated in their respective countries—a pacific army, working unremittingly not only to cure, but to prevent, disease—were members of the International Council.

You, Mr. Chairman, know better than anyone the value of social hygiene as it is put into operation by medical science and the work of the nurse. To this task, in furtherance of which no effort is lost, and to that of reducing avoidable physical suffering, my colleagues constantly devote themselves. Whatever the climate, the race, or the customs, the same scourges beset or threaten humanity, and wherever throughout the world there are those who have given themselves to this cause, progress is registered each day.

The speech from the Chair was followed by eloquent addresses by Dr. Jules Renault, the Marquis de Lillers, Professor Léon Bernard, and Oberin A. Brandt. Miss E. M. Musson welcomed the members of the Congress in the name of the Grand Council, and the meeting closed with an address by M. Daniélou, the Minister of Public Health.

Looking back on the intensive two weeks, from July 4th to 17th, 1933, during which the International Council and Congress of Nurses met in Paris and Brussels—in which its Board of Directors and the Grand Council sat in consultation, to receive Reports and take action thereon, and held its Congress, during the Sessions of which so many subjects of vital importance to the progress and efficiency of the Nursing Profession were put forward and discussed—we unhesitatingly affirm that never before has the meeting of the International attained quite the unquestioned status accorded to it in France and Belgium, where its powerful solidarity and influence were recognised and unquestioned—not only by the peoples whose honoured guests we were, but by the Heads of the Governments in each country.

The impressive and delightful social functions also enabled the members to come into touch with one another informally, greatly to their enlightenment and pleasure.

How well understood was the high aim of the work for the health of peoples, and the education of Nurses, of the Nurses' International in France and Belgium, will be gathered from the lists of the eminent statesmen and others who composed the Committees of Honour—who not only received official delegations of the Board of Directors and Grand Council at the Palais de l'Elysée in Paris, and at the Palais Royal de Laeken at Brussels, but, for the first time in the history of our Council awarded honours to the representative officials, and thus recognised their work as of intrinsic value in the scheme of world health.

At the concluding Session the *Mot d'Ordre* for the next Quadrennial Period "Concordia" was pronounced by Mlle. Chaptal, the retiring President, in an eloquent speech, on a high ethical level. "Was not Concord," she said, "an opportune word at a time such as this through which we were now passing, and ought not nurses to set the world an example in its observation," and Miss Alicia Lloyd Still, the newly elected President for the next Quadrennial Period, briefly reminded the great audience that the aim and object of all their endeavours should be the care and well-being of the patients in their charge. She extended a warm invitation to those present to reassemble in London in 1937.

The history of the International Council of Nurses from July 1st, 1899, when it was modestly founded in London by earnest women, with little acclaim, to the enthusiastic and honourable recognition accorded to it by the President of the French Republic, the President of the Municipal Council and the Préfet de la Seine, at the Hotel de Ville, Paris; by the King and Queen of the Belgians, and at the Reception of the College of Burgomasters at the Hotel de Ville in Brussels, where the guests were received by the heroic Burgomaster Max; proves that the foundation stone of the International Council was well and truly laid.

Generous interchange of thought and practice through personal communication and friendship, and exchange of methods through the professional press, have in little over a quarter of a century produced not only the first international organisation of professional women, but the most forceful and popular confederation of women in the world. The International Council of Nurses has now attained the confidence of national and municipal Governments, which realise that its single aim is the uplift of mankind. May the International Council of Nurses continue to realise the altruism of its inspiration.

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