

## THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

### MEETINGS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND GRAND COUNCIL.

The Board of Directors of the I.C.N. were summoned to meet in the Board room of the College of Nursing, Cavendish Square, W.1, on July 12th and 13th, and the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Grand Council on July 14th, 15th and 17th, at which there was a very representative gathering of Delegates. Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, President, presided and the official business transacted will at a convenient time be reported to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain—in so far as it is concerned as a component part of the International Council of Nurses.

The most important item of business was the election of Dean Effie J. Taylor, M.A., R.N., of the Yale University School of Nursing as President of the I.C.N. for the next quadrennial term—and the acceptance of the invitation of the American Nurses' Association to hold the next meeting and Congress in the United States of America.

This decision should be very popular and will, let us hope, provide an entirely new environment for its proceedings. Four years' interim may appear a long spell of time, especially when we realise that mechanism brings the peoples of the world nearer day by day, but the plea to "give the Pacific a chance" will enable the Orient, Australia, New Zealand and other lands to send increased representation, and will we feel sure be all to the good.

### OFFICIAL INVITATIONS TO MEMBERS OF GRAND COUNCIL.

When it became known that the I.C.N. was to hold its Business Meetings and Congress in London in July 1937 so much kind interest was aroused that the hospitality offered soon made it impossible to accept all the invitations received, and in the space at our disposal we can only find room for a glimpse at the proceedings of the three great General Sessions and the many delightful functions at which Members of the Grand Council and Congress were so warmly welcomed, and which were so greatly enjoyed.

### GREAT PERSONALITIES.

From every country women of outstanding personality attended the Congress, and to one's everlasting regret, owing to very strenuous duties, time was all too short to really avail oneself of intimate communion with them. This loss we realise with regret. We could have enjoyed the privilege of learning much more of Nursing and health conditions in far away countries, but we gathered from our near neighbours in France that compulsory State Registration of Nurses was now on the *tapis*, with the Government's support, and from the very impressive German delegation that they realised the power and value of a strictly controlled professional Press.

The spirit of appreciation of the "Great International" was unanimous and that its greatness can only be maintained and enhanced by probity and honourable dealing.

## RECEPTION OF WELCOME BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN TO MEMBERS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

It was an auspicious event, fraught with enthusiasm and expectancy of great things to come, when some two hundred members of the Grand Council of the International Council of Nurses and guests were welcomed by the President and Vice-Presidents of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain on Sunday, July 11th, at 39, Portland Place, London.

The public rooms by the courtesy of the President and Council of the British College of Nurses were thrown open for the occasion and looked their best, enhanced by the beautiful flowers and plants (the gift of the Fellows and Members of the College).

The Guests were received by Mrs. Fenwick, President, and the Hon. Officers in the Bedford Fenwick Hall. Here, on each side of the large doors thrown wide, were clusters of deep pink hydrangeas, high ferns and roses; this floral scheme was continued in the Hall, where gold chairs and many flowers brightened the scene. Beautiful statuettes of Florence Nightingale adorned the mantel shelves.

After a short address, in which a very warm welcome was extended by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick to these distinguished members of the great Congress, and a happy comingling of guests all descended to the Council Chamber and room adjoining for tea. Luckily it was strawberry and raspberry time, and with iced coffee and ice creams, Miss Alice Bryson, caterer in chief, showed the guests what an English tea could be, although it was Sunday. The decorations in the Library surrounded the late Miss Isla Stewart's lifelike portrait, which was earnestly studied, and the story of her selfless devotion to the nurses' cause in its unpopular days, which has proved an inspiration to nurses in many parts of the world, was retold. The fact that she occupied the Chair at the founding of the International Council of Nurses in London in 1899 was news to the younger generation.

Though there was little time, Miss A. M. Bushby, a keen worker in compiling the History Section of the College, exhibited many treasures of the Florence Nightingale Collection, and the Royal Mementoes, especially those relating to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, who honoured Miss Nightingale with their personal friendship, also excited much interest.

Delighted to have met in personal contact so many colleagues in the true international spirit, this Opening Social Function was a delightful prelude to the splendid hospitality of the Congress which followed.

The N.C.N. Headquarters were open for inspection throughout the fortnight, and many visitors were initiated into the basic principles for which it stands and works, which are the fundamental principles of the essential idea for which the International Council of Nurses was founded, self-government of Nurses in their Associations with the aim of raising ever higher the standards of education and professional ethics, public usefulness and civic spirit of their members.

### HOSPITALITY FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The National Council of Nurses invited as guests all the Presidents of the Nurses' National Associations in the I.C.N. to the Cowdray Club for two weeks, where those able to accept were most hospitably entertained.

### VISIT TO EAST WELLOW AND EMBLEY PARK.

The visit of Homage to Miss Nightingale's grave at East Wellow and to a Garden Party at Embley Park, on July 16th, when 130 guests filled five coaches, was also organised by the National Council of Nurses.

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