

formation des Infirmières. Mlle. Chaptal suivit les cours de la Croix-Rouge en 1902 (S.B.M.), puis, pour pénétrer plus entièrement dans les hôpitaux parisiens, les cours externes de l'Assistance publique à Paris. Son activité ne se bornait pas à cette étude, elle créait dans un quartier déshérité de la capitale une organisation d'assistance aux tuberculeux avec soins à domicile—Assistance aux femmes, pré et post-natale—nourrissons, deuxième enfance, logements ouvriers, coopérative, etc., etc.

En 1905 elle fondait la Maison-Ecole d'Infirmières Privées, réalisant le système Florence Nightingale. Son effort aboutit à la création du Diplôme d'Etat d'Infirmière.

En 1923, elle créa l'Association Nationale des Infirmières Diplômées de l'Etat Français, puis de 1929 à 1933 fut Présidente du Conseil International des Infirmières. Toutes les participantes au Congrès de Paris-Bruxelles en 1933, n'auront pas oublié avec quelle autorité elle a présidé ces assises internationales.

Nous remettons à plus tard l'exposé de cette vie si magnifiquement remplie (avec une photographie).

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, R.R.C. (President of the International Council of Nurses), with the deepest regret, has informed the Directors of the Council of the passing, on Easter Day, of the honoured President of the International Council for the quadrennial period, 1929-1933. She writes: "Mademoiselle Chaptal's great and inspiring work for the nursing profession, both in her own country and internationally, are well known to all members of the Council. We mourn the loss of a valued friend, as well as of a distinguished co-worker. An expression of our heartfelt sympathy has been sent to the National Association of Nurses of France."

LOOKING BACK.

It was in the year 1907 that we first met Mademoiselle Chaptal in Paris; since which time we have watched her wonderful work for humanity, nationally and internationally. A brilliant woman. Physically frail, but of unconquerable spirit, she was one of the most strenuous creators of our international nursing movement, which is primarily based on the demand for united professional effort for the uplift of nursing standards of work and conduct, and for purity of blood for all peoples, a living stream free from the contamination of disease.

Our "International," founded in London in 1899, had met in Buffalo, and in Berlin in 1904. Why not Paris? Together, Isla Stewart and I went on a little

pilgrimage to arouse interest in our work in France. It was necessary to come into touch with the Ministry. A friend introduced us to Mlle. Chaptal, and she at once placed her influence and services at our disposal. She presented us to M. Mesureur (the Director of the *Assistance Publique*), and at the end of half an hour's interview we came away with a week's Congress arranged for the following June. Turn to your *B.J.N.* of that year and you will find the report of one of our most successful Conferences. A perfectly lovely time never to be forgotten. That fateful interview led to a happy friendship of thirty years' duration. Now this dear mortal has passed into a spiritual environment, leaving us as treasure the memory of her very gracious life on earth.

We have been re-reading letters and documents associated with Mademoiselle Chaptal, with whom we were intimately associated in international affairs. Mlle. J. de Joannis refers in her letter to the high estimation in which she was regarded in French Government circles.

Even as far back as the year 1907, the date of our first Congress in France, when the International held its first Banquet in Paris, it was evident from the speeches of eminent Ministers present that they had deep sympathy with the work of Mlle. Chaptal and owed much to her teaching and earnest example.

M. Mesureur, who proposed the last toast of the evening, said:—

"Allow me to propose a toast to all our Fatherlands, to all countries which we love, too numerous to mention individually. To all, from my heart I address a fraternal greeting. Frontiers do not exist for nurses. Misery exists for the unfortunate ones of this life on all shores,

and this is the tie which unites us—humanity. When a human being succumbs to illness, or is lying in a hospital ward, he has no country. It will always be a great consolation to us—the great teaching of your Congress—that we are compatriots of the same country, of the country where men suffer. From your Association the great family of nurses will arise stronger and more united. Its members will aid one another in fighting evil and in banishing hate. This great fraternity of the peoples will hold out its hand to assist, to help and to heal."

Noble words. To be taken to heart at our coming Congress.

E. G. F.



THE LATE MADEMOISELLE L. CHAPTAL,
President the International Council of Nurses 1929-33;
President of the National Association of the Trained
Nurses of France; Chevalier of the Legion of Honour
of France; Ruban de Chevalier de l'Ordre de
Leopold.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)