

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

We have received from Miss Effie J. Taylor, President of the International Council of Nurses, a letter giving the result of her application to the Rockefeller Foundation for a grant to enable the Education Committee to pursue a course of study of nursing education in the countries affiliated with the International Council of Nurses. The study was to include resources and facilities for post-graduate work and the needs of the different countries.

When the matter was presented to the Foundation, the Directors felt that their interests were somewhat more specific, and that a subsidy to a study of this type would hardly come within the range of their future policies. They, on the other hand, were greatly interested in seeing the public health nursing educational facilities in London expanded, and were deeply interested in taking steps which would at least indirectly further some of the objectives long since set forth by the International Council of Nurses.

Miss Beard has recently paid a visit to London, during which time she discussed projects in which the Rockefeller Foundation would be ready to participate. These projects would eventually further the ideals of both the International Council of Nurses and the Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

Miss Taylor, therefore, writes to inform us that while the special subsidy requested by the International Council of Nurses was not granted, the request was fruitful in stimulating interest in what may be the inauguration of a piece of work in nursing education of very far-reaching importance. In the meantime, she assures us that the Education Committee of the I.C.N. is going ahead with its work on a questionnaire with a fact-finding basis, and it is expected that the year 1938-1939 will be very active in order that a progress report may be ready at the next Board meeting.

NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

MENTAL HOSPITAL MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The 62nd Quarterly Meeting of the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association, was held on Saturday, September 3rd, at the Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queens Gate, London, S.W., at 2.30 p.m., preceded by a meeting of the Executive Committee.

At this meeting the following were elected to Membership: Miss B. D. Mason, Matron, Bromham House Colony, nr. Bedford.; Miss M. Pugh, Pewsey Colony, Pewsey, Wilts.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.

LIVERPOOL BRANCH.

The Winter Session of the Liverpool Branch of the College of Nursing of which Miss Mary Jones, O.B.E., R.R.C., of the Royal Infirmary in that city is chairman, will open at the Infirmary on October 3rd, with an "At Home" for Branch Members and recently qualified nurses, when Miss Beatrice Monk, C.B.E., R.R.C., President of the College of Nursing, will give a short Address.

The lectures will be given monthly in the lecture theatre of the Royal Infirmary and will include in 1938, Monday, November 7th, "The Origins of Medicine," by Professor Henry Cohen, M.D., F.R.C.P.; Monday, December 5th, "Radiation in the Treatment of Malignant Disease," by Percy Whitaker, Esq., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., etc., and in 1939, Wednesday, January 4th, "Present-day Position of Vitamins," by William Johnson, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P. Monday, February 6th, "Midwives, Past, Present and Future," by Professor A. Leyland Robinson, M.D., F.R.C.S., and Wednesday, March 8th, "The History of Orthopædic Surgery," by T. P. McMurray, Esq., M.B., M.Ch. (Belf.), F.R.C.S.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The August number of the *South African Nursing Journal* brings a full account of the Biennial Conference of the Central Governing Board of the South African Trained Nurses' Association, held in the Technical College at Port Elizabeth from July 4th to 8th. Following established precedent a special service for nurses was held at St. Mary's Church on July 5th at 9 a.m.

The opening address was given by Mrs. J. H. Conradie who expressed her pleasure of having been afforded the opportunity of expressing her esteem and admiration for the nursing profession.

Nursing, she said, is a modern profession built up by women on the foundation of a great and noble ideal, the Ideal of Service. What the world owes to the women who have clung to that ideal in spite of the sacrifice and self-denial it entailed, is difficult to sum up in a few brief words. They have been the Torch-bearers of their profession in all countries, including South Africa, and while changes were bound to come to meet changing conditions and changing needs she hoped this Ideal of Service would never be lost sight of, but remain steadfast before every young woman taking up nursing as her profession.

The General President, Miss J. B. Young, then addressed the Association. She referred to the meeting and Congress of the International Council of Nurses held in London in July, 1937, to which the South African Trained Nurses Association was able to send a full delegation. Its members brought back excellent reports full of valuable information, and the Association was honoured in having Miss Alexander elected as second Vice-President.

Miss Young then referred to the Florence Nightingale International Foundation as follows:—

"Linked up with the International Council of Nurses is the Florence Nightingale Foundation. The Foundation is proving itself to be of incalculable value to South Africa, through the outstanding work of the nurses now serving in various spheres in the Union, who have returned from taking one of the courses of study. We require the sum of £10,000 to complete our National Foundation. I am happy to say £4,000 has been raised since 1934, when the first appeal was launched."

Miss Young said further: "The large question faces us in our deliberations of additional representation for our profession, and adequate control of Nursing Affairs and Education for which no body in the Union takes direct responsibility. The Hospital Boards rarely take any responsibility for nursing education, and are under no obligation to do so, although they employ large brigades of nurses. The Medical Council is purely an examining body, and the Provincial Administrations are mostly concerned with the financial side of Hospital Administration. We are, as has been said, 'nobody's pigeon.' I am afraid many hours of our Conference will necessarily have to be given to a plan for the establishment of a scheme of co-ordinated control. We are getting tired of the obstacles which obstruct our advancement."

Miss Young was re-elected President of the Association.

THE AUSTRALIAN NURSING FEDERATION.

Miss E. P. Evans concludes an interesting article in the *International Nursing Review* on "Nursing in Australia" with the following paragraph:—

"The year 1937 was a memorable one for the nurses of Australia—the Australian Nursing Federation, which had temporarily ceased to exist, was re-formed on June 1st, in itself a valuable attainment, and on July 19th, just seven weeks later, was admitted to the International Council of Nurses, membership of which is granted to only one nursing association in each country. Thus, the

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