

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Sympathy will be sincerely felt and widely expressed with Princess Anna Schwarzenberg, the Executive Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, upon the death of her father, Prince Johan Nepomuk von Schwarzenberg, which took place at his Vienna residence on October 1st. He was one of the principal landowners in Czechoslovakia. One of his largest estates was at Krumau, where a plebiscite is to be held. The Princes von Schwarzenberg held high office during the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the past century. It is presumable that the revolutionary changes promoted by German expansion during the past year would inevitably distress the noble families resident in Austria or Czechoslovakia.

Princess Anna was with her father when he died.

GIFT FROM MISS LAVINIA L. DOCK.

Dated July 27th, the Founder of the International Council of Nurses, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, received a letter from Miss Lavinia L. Dock—first Hon. Secretary and Organiser of the I.C.N.—in which she writes: "You will remember that in 1922 the International Council of Nurses gave me a very beautifully illuminated testimonial (Address). My elder sister and myself being launched into our eighties, are planning to be our own Executors so far as possible, and give away or return, as many earthly possessions as we can.

"It occurred to me that there might be a place for this testimonial in the Headquarters. It is a very beautiful work of art, and historically interesting, as it recites the names of our member Countries.

"If you think well of receiving it, I shall send it to you."

Our reply conveyed to Miss Dock thanks for her generous offer, and that no doubt this historic document would be received with great pleasure and appropriately placed at International Headquarters.

In August, Miss Dock expressed pleasure that the Testimonial would be accepted, which we may now expect at an early date. The glass will be removed from the frame to prevent injury to the illuminations.

The history of this beautiful work of art is interesting to appreciative nurses. After the Great War, a Meeting of the Grand Council of the I.C.N. was held in Copenhagen from May 22nd to 24th, 1922, by the kind invitation of the Danish Council of Nurses, which as usual was fully reported in the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*.

The late Mrs Henny Tscherning extended a warm welcome to the delegates. At this meeting, "the resignation of our dear Hon. Secretary, Miss L. L. Dock, was received with regret," when the honorary nature of the Office ceased. In July, 1923, a Meeting of the Executive Committee of the I.C.N., with which was associated an informal Conference, was held in Copenhagen, from July 30th to August 1st, the Baroness Mannerheim, then President, presided.

At this Meeting the following Resolution was adopted:—

RESOLUTION.

To Miss Lavinia Dock, R.N., Foundation Member and First Hon. Secretary.

"The Executive Committee of the International Council of Nurses desires to express to Miss Lavinia Dock, late Hon. Secretary of the Council, its regret that she is unable to be with them on this occasion, and to assure her that her great interest, and the personal touch of her work for the professional advancement of nurses will be kept for ever in the memory of all those whose interests are closely allied with those of the International Council of Nurses."

AN ADDRESS OF THANKS.

It was agreed to present an Address of Thanks to Miss Dock, Hon. Secretary of the I.C.N. for 23 years, whose fine work was woven into its fabric, and it was unanimously resolved that the Address should be commemorative of her great services.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was entrusted with the pleasurable duty of carrying out this resolve. The Address was exquisitely illuminated by Mr. Henry Donald, of Stoke Newington, and he, by direction, incorporated in the illuminated border of the Address references to Miss Dock's many-sided activities and talents. There were depicted the Bellevue Hospital, New York, where she was trained, the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, where she acted as Assistant Superintendent to Miss Isabel Hampton, the names of professional associations with which she was then connected and helped to found, all are there, also a palette and brushes, and musical instruments, referring to Miss Dock's artistic talents, scarcely known to many of her international friends. So also are the prison bars, indicative of her gallant fight in the days when Women's Suffrage was yet to win.

When this historic work of art has found a place of honour at International Headquarters, 51, Palace Street, Westminster, we may hope many nurses interested in the history of the International Council of Nurses will pay it a visit of homage and gratitude.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

CONFERENCE SUB-COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Conference Sub-Committee of the National Council, was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on September 13th; owing to holidays few were able to attend. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was in the chair.

The correspondence included letters of acceptance and inability to accept invitations to present papers and speak. Those present considered suggestions received for completing vacant positions in the programme.

The proof of the ticket of admission to the Conference was considered, and it was agreed that the tickets should be transferable to members of Associations affiliated to the National Council of Nurses.

A leaflet containing details of the Conference was approved, and it was agreed that copies should be sent to the Presidents of every affiliated society inviting them to place them on the notice boards and thus interest the Nursing Staffs.

It was agreed to invite Dr. G. W. B. James, physician for Mental Diseases at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, to deliver the Lecture, illustrated by a film, on "The Insulin Treatment of Mental Disorders" at the Evening Session of the Conference. It was agreed that the work in connection with the organisation of the Conference should proceed. The meeting then terminated.

Owing to the Government's demands on hospital service, and the necessary preparations for the nursing of wounded in case of war, the great responsibility of Matrons and others has made the organisation of a Nursing Conference very uncertain, and may no doubt prevent so large an attendance as was anticipated. We print below the arrangement of speakers up to date, and now that our minds are relieved of an appalling catastrophe, we may hope that the programme may be speedily completed.

THE NURSING CONFERENCE.

NOVEMBER 10TH, 1938.

Morning Session, 10.30 a.m.

GREAT HALL.

The Conference will be opened by the President.

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