

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The Board of Directors of the International Council of Nurses met at Headquarters, 51, Palace Street, London, S.W.1, on Wednesday, July 5th, at 10 a.m. and on the 6th, 7th and 8th inst. The President, Miss Effie J. Taylor, was in the Chair, and the following delegates were present: Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Founder, Great Britain; Dame Ellen Musson, Treasurer; Miss B. G. Alexander, Second Vice-President, S. Africa; Mlle. de Joannis, Third Vice-President, France; Miss J. Stimson, U.S.A.; Frau Oberin H. Blunck, Germany; Miss G. M. Fairley, Canada; Miss Kaae, Denmark; Miss V. Snellman, Finland; Miss Knottenbelt, Holland; Miss D. Hartley, India; Mlle. M. Damman, Belgium; Miss G. E. Stephenson, China; Miss B. Helgestad, Norway; Miss Baticka, Poland; Miss Vogel, Sweden; Miss Samsing, Australia; Mme. Costres, Roumania; Miss Hoffman, Switzerland; Dame Alicia Lloyd Still attended by special invitation.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

In her opening address the President said that in July, 1899, the International Council of Nurses was founded in London, and they were honoured that the Founder was there with them. Through rain and sun, through good times and bad she had always been present, and her interest had never flagged. They honoured themselves in honouring Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and it was her privilege, as President, to present a token of their respect and affection with the very kind regards of the Board of Directors there assembled, with the hope that she would be with them for many years to come.

A bouquet of lovely red roses was presented to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, amidst applause, who returned sincere thanks for kind words and flowers.

Seven Sessions were held in all, at all of which the President was in the Chair, and a vast amount of business was accomplished with the utmost harmony.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.

The Executive Secretary, Miss Anna Schwarzenberg, presented a very comprehensive Report, and it was agreed that she and her staff had rendered fine service. The Report was accepted as a whole and the recommendations set forth discussed one by one.

"HISTORY OF NURSING."

The proposal to continue the "History of Nursing" where that of Dock, Nutting and Stewart terminated was agreed; the I.C.N. would make itself responsible for the compiling of a "History of Nursing" and would keep it up to date. The matter was referred to the Publications Committee to find ways and means.

The Publications Committee was also requested to consider the growing demand for a comprehensive survey of nursing legislation in different countries.

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND FOREIGN TRAVEL.

It was agreed that the Executive Secretary be given leave to visit South Africa and then India.

Miss Alexander explained that the invitation had been offered, as it was the Silver Jubilee year of the South African Trained Nurses' Association. Miss Hartley (India) said it would be of the greatest help to them, and of the greatest encouragement to their Indian nurses, if Miss Schwarzenberg would visit India. Mme. Costres (Roumania) said it was a great help to the nurses of Greece, Turkey and Roumania when the Executive Secretary visited them.

It was reported the visits would take five months. It was agreed that both invitations should be accepted if the international situation permitted.

The new Assistant Secretary, Miss Calista F. Banwarth U.S.A., would be in office.

REPORT OF HON. TREASURER.

Dame Ellen Musson reported that the budget passed at the last meeting held good. They had budgeted for £3,000 and they could meet the budget. At a subsequent meeting it was agreed to grant expenses to the Hon. Officers to meet the cost of attending the Board of Directors; to allocate £250 per annum (£1,000 in four years), to meet extra Headquarters expenses for the Quadrennial Congress. Other financial details were discussed and agreed.

The Board agreed to make a grant of £1,000 to the Endowment Fund of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

Interesting reports from a number of Standing Committees were presented and discussed. The most interesting were those presented by Miss Stimson (U.S.A.), Chairman of the Congress Programme Committee and the Congress Arrangements Committee. The former followed on the lines of those found so successful in 1937.

Miss Stimson reported that the arrangements in 1941 in U.S.A. would open with the Meeting of the Board of Directors in Washington, on May 5th and 6th. The Meetings of the Grand Council to follow on 7th and 8th.

Atlantic City had been chosen in which to hold the Congress—although not a typical American city, it provided fine meeting halls, magnificent hotels and sea breezes. The date of opening of the Congress provisionally arranged would be 11th or 12th May, 1941. Miss Stimson, a keen woman of business, had evidently matters well in hand for this great assembly, to attend which the nurses of the world were already forming plans. It was later agreed that the Cunard White Star Line should be approached concerning plans of transport.

Very interesting discussions took place on many of the enlightening reports of the Standing Committees, especially on Education and Ethics.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said they could not enforce standards of ethics in the nursing profession until they were really self-governing, which they were not, especially in Great Britain.

Miss Hartley said, in India, where women's freedom was very new, it was in danger of being put back in many ways. Their greatest difficulty was due to the fact that nursing administrators were not allowed a free hand. She thought a clear international code of ethics would be a very great help. It was agreed that the questionnaire being prepared by the Ethics of Nursing Committee be sent to the Executive Secretary asking that it should be circulated to all member countries.

COMMITTEE ON THE REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

In a letter, Miss Jean I. Gunn, Chairman, Committee on the Revision of Constitution and By-Laws, asked for consideration on three points. No. 1: in reference to the Preamble. "During recent years, the question as to whether all member countries are able to meet the requirement in paragraph 1, has been under consideration." Should the Clause: "The International Council of Nurses stands for self-government by Nurses in their own Associations," be reconsidered? The Chairman said Miss Gunn was asking whether they stood for exactly the same things as they stood for previously.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said that the International Council of Nurses was founded on the basic principle of self-government, and organisations of nurses which were not based on self-determination, but were governed by others, were ineligible for affiliation. She proposed that the

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