

THE FOUNDER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES RETURNS THANKS.

A basket full of good wishes! Who would not be moved and grateful for their reception? We own ourselves greatly inspired by the lovely cards and kind words sent by international colleagues from many parts of the world for a Happy Christmas and New Year, and believe that these winged messages have real significance in application.

This year, spending the festive season, owing to an accident, in bed, we had time to study the national character of the cards, and to realise the beauty and the magnificence of this wonderful world, near and far. The variety and beauty of the cards has inspired us to add them to the History Section of our National Council of Nurses, where, annotated, they will be inserted in a book for the purpose.

Headquarters of the International Council of Nurses presents the beautiful façade of the Old Hospital, Rye, which will inspire those who have not seen it to pay a visit without delay.

Scandinavia, with its soundly organised National Associations of Nurses, spares no pains in design. The Norwegian Nurses' Association expresses thanks "for good co-operation in 1938." The Swedish Nurses' Association sends a kind message. The Danish Council of Nurses adds: "Our very hearty thanks for all kindness and help given to Danish Nurses in 1938." Finland reminds us of its lakes and snowy scenes. Holland and Belgium remember us; and Mlle. Jeanne de Joannis (President L'Association des Infirmières Diplômées de l'État Français), reminds us that "Toute âme qui s'élève, élève le Monde." Oberin Helene Blunck (President of the German Nurses' Association), writes: "God save your vital and spiritual activities for your own and the welfare of the English sisterhood." The Hungarian Nurses' Association remind one of the splendour of Budapest; the Yugoslavian Graduate Nurses' Association, houses, hills, and trees laden with snow; Roumania, Bulgaria, the Hellenic Graduate Nurses' Association, and the Croix Rouge Hellenique, charming national vistas; Cora E. Simpson and the Nurses of China; Yuki Inada and the Nurses of Japan; from the Officers and Members of the Trained Nurses' Association of India, palms, elephants in dignified procession; the Australian Nursing Federation (Miss Bell, Melbourne), land of quaint little animals and sweet little birds, such as we love; the koala and kookaburra, and Captain Cook's cottage of great charm; Miss Lambie and New Zealand Nurses, lovely scenes, Maori canoes on the Waikato River; snow-capped Mt. Egmont from Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, towering ferns and flowing waters; surely to be heard the call of many birds, the pukeko or swamp hen, the kea, in the Dart Valley; the kiwi and sunset in Auckland Harbour; specimens of Maori carving, cut with a national touch, and the truly magnificent Chief of the Arawa Tribe in gorgeous garments; friends in South Africa, have not forgotten us. Miss Jean Wilson and the Canadian Nurses' Association (snow at its loveliest); across the Rockies to far Vancouver, up steps and flower-filled balconies, the Nurses' Building of the

Vancouver General Hospital, "with every kind thought" from Grace M. Fairley; the Promenade and Plaza, in New York, marvellous sky-scrapers, where the British Building, the Rockefeller Centre, etc., are located, together with the office of the *American Journal of Nursing*, which is so wonderfully edited by Miss Mary Roberts, who sends us a card illustrating all these wonders, including the roof garden, and who writes, "It is the one place in New York where English friends are assured of a proper cup of tea and we enjoy taking them there—the British, French, Holland and International Buildings give one a substantial feeling of sound internationalism that is comforting in these troublous times—my thoughts fly to you now and always with affection and admiration." Greetings are also sent by the President of the International Council of Nurses (Miss Effie J. Taylor), together with a picture of the beautiful Court of Calhoun College, Yale University. Miss Elsie Lawler also sends best wishes with a picture of Johns Hopkins Hospital, glistening with snow—a place where we spent wonderfully inspiring days long ago with Isabel Hampton and dear Lavinia Dock; and last but not least, the President of the nurses of Eire recalls "Old Dublin" in the good old days.

After studying these charming souvenirs, we realised the enlightenment of a trip round the world. Had we not visualised its wonders of glorious scenery, picturesque peoples, lovely flora and fauna, and thus extended our international sympathies?

To one and all dear Ladies, whose kind thoughts have flown around the world to wish us happiness and good fortune—a thousand heartfelt thanks are yours from
E. G. F.

A PRACTICAL STEP FORWARD.

A PRE-NURSING SCHEME.

An immense amount of interest has been aroused during the past year in the hospital world by criticism good, bad and indifferent of nursing conditions, and the question of education has emerged as of the greatest importance.

Eighteen is wisely considered the earliest age at which a young woman should enter hospital for the strenuous life of a resident student nurse, not only for health's sake, but for association with sick people who need a wise and womanly attendant.

It would appear that the pre-nursing scheme recently inaugurated at the West London Hospital has many advocates, and already a pre-nursing scheme for candidates prior to full training is shortly to be inaugurated at Leicester. Students will be accepted any time between the ages of 16 and 18 years. They will be required to live at home and to spend 31 hours per week for two years at one of the Leicester hospitals, during the first year at the Royal Infirmary. Three evenings a week will be spent on the continuation of her general education, by means of courses arranged with the local education authority. It is proposed that the student should be paid £26 per annum during her period of studentship, and upon completing the course may be eligible for full training in the hospital.

We presume the emoluments to students will be paid by the hospitals, and will not be a Government grant.

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