

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Headquarters :
51, Palace Street, London, S.W.1.
October 25th, 1939.

To the Members of the Board of Directors.

DEAR MEMBER,

At the Meeting of the Board of Directors in July, 1939, the President, Treasurer and Executive Secretary, in conjunction with the Headquarters' Committee, were given authority to make provisions for Headquarters in times of emergency.

Owing to the outbreak of war my trip to South Africa and India was cancelled, and I had to return from South Africa.

Dame Ellen Musson and I were in close touch with our President, Miss Taylor, by cables and transatlantic air letters. We came to the conclusion that the best plan for carrying on the work of the I.C.N. was to transfer temporarily the Headquarters Offices, with the necessary files, to a neutral country. Miss Banwarth, Assistant Secretary, an American citizen, consented to take the material over to America and set up offices in Newhaven. We are very fortunate that this arrangement can be made, in view of the fact that our President can thereby be in close contact with Headquarters.

The last copy of the Review will be coming out shortly, and publication will then be suspended. Miss Banwarth will keep members informed of the new address of Headquarters.

Any correspondence addressed to myself should be forwarded: C/o Mlle. de Steller, 7, Avenue Léon Gaud, Geneva, Switzerland.

The material of historic value and other valuable documents have been deposited in a locked case with our bank. The office furniture and the rest of the files, pamphlet library, library, and periodicals were packed and stored.

After winding up the work of the office I am now on unpaid leave of absence for an indefinite period. The rest of the staff have been released.

A satisfactory arrangement has been made with regard to the rent of the premises at 51, Palace Street, London.

We hope that these arrangements will seem quite satisfactory to all our members. We feel that only from a neutral country will it be possible to ensure that the correspondence with our different members may be maintained. The work will, of necessity, be reduced to the minimum, but we sincerely hope that contact may be kept up.

I should like to thank every one of the members of the Board for their collaboration in the work of the Council during my term of office, and I should especially like to say how much I have enjoyed the work and how gratifying it was to note the progress made. The unfailing interest of the Board of Directors has been a great encouragement and help.

I had hoped to have an opportunity of visiting all the member countries, but the war has made this impossible for the time being. I should, however, like again to express my thanks to those countries it has been my privilege to visit for all the kindness shown to me.

I do hope that in happier times the work of the I.C.N. may again be taken up, and, in the meantime, may I wish to each member of the Board of Directors every success and happiness in her work.

Yours sincerely,

ANNA SCHWARZENBERG.

LETTER FROM THE TREASURER.

October 25th, 1939.

To the Presidents of Affiliated National Associations.

DEAR PRESIDENT,

As you have heard from the Executive Secretary, it has been decided that the work of the Council shall, during the war, be carried on from a neutral country—*i.e.*, the United States of America, Miss Banwarth, the Assistant Secretary, acting as temporary Secretary. The American Nurses' Association has very kindly consented to use its annual dues for the purpose of carrying on the reduced activities of the Council.

The funds of the Council remain, as before, in the hands of the Treasurer, and I have to ask you to be good enough to forward the annual dues of your Association, as before, to me if it is possible to do so. I should be grateful if those countries which have not yet been able to complete their dues for the current year would do so without delay.

With regard to those countries where it is not possible to transfer money abroad, may I ask that the dues may be paid into a bank to accumulate until such time as is possible to transfer them, and that I may be informed annually of the membership of the Association and also the amount deposited. A form to this effect is enclosed herewith.

Yours faithfully,

E. M. MUSSON,
Treasurer,

The International Council of Nurses.

We are informed that Miss Schwarzenberg is now working with the International Red Cross Society in Geneva.

The winding-up of the work of I.C.N. Headquarters was of a somewhat hurried nature, the staff being anxious to return to their various countries upon declaration of war.

In a recent letter received from the President I.C.N. from New Haven, U.S.A., she writes:—

"However, since money can easily be made available here, it will be best, should the war be prolonged, to transfer the activities to the United States and to this I have given approval as soon as arrangements for safe travel can be made.

"In any case, we cannot do much but attempt as far as possible to encourage each other through correspondence and by expressing our loving sympathy and giving our moral support wherever it is required. I will write you again as soon as I know what we must do."

Alas! It will be the irony of fate should war for a second time prevent the Meeting of the International Congress of Nurses in the United States. It was a sad disappointment in 1915 when the splendid preparations then anticipated had to be called off.

The Executive met in San Francisco and of our little European group, Miss B. Kent, Miss Hulme and Baroness Mannerheim, and Miss Noyes, U.S.A., all have passed away.

V.A.D.s ARE PAID.

All members of the British Red Cross and St. John detachments on full-time duty receive remuneration.

This applies to mobile V.A.D. members who serve under the Admiralty, War Office and Air Ministry, the nursing auxiliaries of the Civil Nursing Reserve, who are British Red Cross and St. John members, those working under local authorities' A.R.P. schemes and nursing sisters.

Thus privileges which were demanded by V.A.D.s in the last war because they claimed to be voluntary workers, although much of their cost was paid for, does not hold good under present conditions of service.

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