

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT.

310, Cedar Street,
New Haven, Connecticut,
October 27th, 1939.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick,
National Council of Nurses of Great Britain,
19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, England.

DEAR MRS. FENWICK,

We are deeply conscious of your anxiety to know what plans have been made concerning the location of the headquarters office, the secretarial staff, and the provisions to forward the activities of the International Council of Nurses during the present unsettled period. We regret that so long a time has elapsed since our last communication. It was impossible, however, to complete the plans at an earlier date, due to the delay in the mails between England and America and also the urgent need to consider each step most carefully to avoid unwise decisions.

Then, too, you will recall that Miss Schwarzenberg, in accord with our agreement at the July Board of Directors meeting, left England on August 11th to attend the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the South African Trained Nurses' Association, after which she had been invited to visit certain important nursing centres in India and other countries. It is needless to state that her field trip, entered upon so enthusiastically was cut short by the events of the past few weeks, and it seemed wise to await her return to London on September 22nd before making final arrangements.

As a precautionary measure, while permanent plans were being made, the headquarters office was transferred to Cambridge and functioned there during the month of September. That this arrangement must be looked upon as temporary soon became apparent, particularly since Miss Schwarzenberg felt it was wise to request an indefinite leave of absence, and it grew increasingly doubtful that Miss Banwarth, the newly appointed Assistant Secretary, and an American citizen, should remain in England.

The necessity for arriving at a decision was made more imminent, in that Miss Petschnigg, who had gone to the continent of Europe the latter part of August, found it impossible to return to England, and Miss Perrochet was married in the early autumn. Both of these secretaries who had been with the Council for a number of years have given devoted service, and their places will be hard to fill. Perchance we may look forward to their return when normal conditions are again established.

Taking all things into consideration, it was deemed advisable to act upon the suggestion made at the Board Meeting, to transfer headquarters to a neutral country. Since the President was resident in the United States, and the Assistant Secretary was an American citizen, it seemed, according to our best judgment, wise to set up a temporary office in this country, with the official address that of the President—310, Cedar Street, New Haven, Connecticut, U.S.A. When this decision was made the remaining members of the headquarters personnel were released for the immediate, as only a minimum staff will be required in the interim. Accordingly, Miss Banwarth sailed for America with the necessary records and equipment to carry forward the essential work of the I.C.N. She arrived safely in this country on Sunday, October 22nd, after a long and anxious voyage.

The attached papers will serve to acquaint you with the changes which have taken place and will orient you with the present arrangements and the environment in which the work of the Council will be carried on during the immediate future.

While for the time being it will not be possible to engage in much of the creative and research work outlined by our able Executive Secretary and the Chairmen of Committees, it is our desire to keep in touch with our members. We trust this will be accomplished by frequent correspondence, and in spite of dissension among the several nations of the world, we may not forget, that as nurses, we are International in spirit and in our purpose. The objectives of the International Council of Nurses are clearly defined, far reaching and inclusive in their implications. With courage, loyalty and vision we will uphold our ideals until, God willing, we may clasp each other's hands and meet again.

Very faithfully and hopefully yours,

EFFIE J. TAYLOR,
President.

READJUSTMENTS OF THE HEADQUARTERS' OFFICE AND STAFF OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

At the Meeting of the Board of Directors held in London July 5th to 8th, 1939, the possibility was considered that some readjustments in the conduct of the affairs of the International Council of Nurses might have to be made in the event that the impending crisis became a reality. Accordingly, "It was proposed by Miss Alexander, and seconded by Miss Samsing, that arrangements be left in the hands of the President, the Treasurer, and the Executive Secretary to make the best plans possible should an emergency arise." The following actions have been taken, and we trust that they will meet with your approval:—

Location of Headquarters.

As the United States is a neutral country and the President and Acting Secretary are residents in this country, it was agreed to transfer temporarily the necessary equipment, files and records to America. For convenience and to avoid complications it was also agreed to make the President's address the official one of the Temporary Headquarters.

Until further notice, therefore, 310, Cedar Street, New Haven, Connecticut, U.S.A., will be the address of the Temporary Headquarters of the International Council of Nurses.

The work will be carried on by Miss Banwarth in an office in close proximity to the President. There the necessary records will be installed.

Unfortunately, it will be necessary to continue to pay the rent on the London office until the expiration of the lease, July, 1942. In the event of a moratorium, the lease would, of course, automatically cease.

Since rates and taxes are reduced for an unoccupied building, we have been able to store the office equipment, vacate the rooms, and in this way save about £50 per year.

Executive Secretary.

Since Miss Schwarzenberg, our efficient and greatly esteemed Executive Secretary, has found it necessary to request, with deep regret, an indefinite leave of absence, Miss Banwarth, the Assistant Secretary, will assume the responsibility for all activities concerned with the work at Temporary Headquarters in New Haven, and will function as the Acting Executive Secretary until such time as Miss Schwarzenberg may find it possible to resume her former duties. To this we all look forward when peace shall be restored.

Documents, Historical Material and Library.

Historical material, valuable papers and one complete set of minutes on file, together with one copy of all publica-

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