

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The following letter has been addressed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, N.C.N., to the Presidents of all Member Associations in the Council:—

19, Queen's Gate,
London, S.W.7.
October, 1940.

DEAR MADAM,—It was agreed at the last Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain that a Meeting should be held in September. I think you will now agree with me that it is quite impossible to call any Meetings, which could be in any way representative, of the National Council of Nurses owing to the disturbed conditions in London. I have therefore paid over a cheque to the Treasurer of the International Council of Nurses, Dame Ellen Musson, for £218 8s. 4d., for *per capita* contributions to the International Council of Nurses for the year ending December 31st, 1940. This sum has been subscribed by 35 of our Affiliated Organisations, leaving 16 of the Societies who so far have not paid their annual subscriptions.

The Accounts have, as usual, been audited to September 30th, of which I beg to enclose you a copy.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

ETHEL G. FENWICK, *President.*

OUR EXCHANGES.

It is wonderful how the nursing press grows and grows. The September exchanges are brimming over with interest. As we go to press, the Californian Nursing Organisations are holding a Convention in the magnificent City Hall at Pasadena. Apparently they are going to discuss a wide range of nursing affairs, according to the *Pacific Coast Journal of Nursing*.

We learn from this journal that the "March of Time in Nursing History" is now on display in the Nursing booth in Science Building at the Golden Gate International Exposition at Treasure Island. Sister Elizabeth Clare, Director of Providence College of Nursing, Oakland, conceived the idea of the graph portraying famous characters in nursing history after seeing the Fabiola School of Nursing display of dolls during the semester year 1930-1931. The graph divides nursing history into pre-Christian and post-Christian nursing.

The star represents the coming of Christ and its radiation tells the story of His influence in nursing history. The numbers 1, 2, 3 along the graph have reference to the centuries, first, second, etc. The curves of the graph indicate the degree of progress or regress in nursing care through the centuries.

The following outstanding characters of the various periods in nursing history are represented by dolls.

PRE-CHRISTIAN NURSING.

Mothers, Neighbors, Moses, Hygeia, Hippocrates.

POST-CHRISTIAN NURSING.

1. *Early Christian Period—First to Fourth Century.*
Phoebe.

2. *Monastic Period—Fourth to Eleventh Century.*
Paula, Fabiola, Marcella, Queen Radegund, Early Christian Monk and Christian Nun. The Pilgrims, Black Plague Doctor.

3. *Crusade Period—Eleventh to Twelfth Century.*

The Crusader—The Crusade Nun. St. Hildegard.

Bequines, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac (Mlle. de Gras).

4. *Period of the Saints—Twelfth to Sixteenth Century.*
St. Francis of Assisi, St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

5. *Period of the Dark Ages—Sixteenth to Middle of the Nineteenth Century.*

St. Camillus de Lellis, Henry the VIII of England (the villain of the piece), John Howard, Elizabeth Fry. The Flinders, Modern Deaconess, Sairy Gamp, Betsy Prig, Jeanne Mance.

6. *Period of Modern Nursing—Middle of Nineteenth Century to the present time.*

Civil War Nurse Dorothy Dix, Clara Barton, Sister Helen of All Saints, Linda Richards, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Henri Dunant, Jane Delano, Lillian Wald and Mary Brewster, Major Julia Stimson, Isabel Hampton, Adelaide Nutting, Mrs. Elizabeth Soule, Sister John Gabriel, Florence Nightingale, Red Cross Nurse, The Public Health Nurse, the Modern Registered Nurse.

To each of these personalities a brief explanatory paragraph is attached, and those of us who know our Fenwick-Mollett Pageant have come into touch with them by personal representation. Sister Elizabeth Clare, who is the Director of Providence College of Nursing, Oakland, U.S.A., has in reference to the Nineteenth Century and Present Time included outstanding nurses in U.S.A., but few of our European and Dominion leaders—such as the founders of the National and International Council of Nurses, and the omission of Lavinia L. Dock is a serious one.

All the same, this effort to bring our younger nurses into touch with, and make them realise what they owe to, their predecessors in past centuries is a step in the right direction, and we thank her for her research and for giving honour to whom honour is due.

GRENFELL OF LABRADOR.

Sir Wilfred Grenfell of Labrador fame, whose death at Charlotte, Vermont, is announced, bore a name that harks back to the British seamen of Elizabethan days, and he had the same passion for the sea, the same spirit of daring and adventure, only he consecrated it to a nobler task. Born in 1865 at Parkgate, near Chester, he knew as a boy every bank and gutter on the sands of Dee. On leaving school he made up his mind for medicine, and entered the Medical School at London Hospital, where his father had been appointed chaplain; there he served under Sir Frederick Treves.

He later worked among the fishermen in the North Sea, and in 1892 the Deep Sea Mission commissioned him to go out to Labrador, where he reported on the conditions of the fishermen working off the Labrador coast.

There he found over 30,000 settlers carrying on the summer fishery without a single doctor among them.

The greatest scourges he found there were beri-beri and tuberculosis; doctors and nurses had to be procured.

He started co-operative stores, also he started schools and orphanages. The expense of these schemes fell upon the Mission, until the Government gave some assistance. Later the United States organised an International Grenfell Mission and supplied 90 per cent. of the funds.

The Grenfell conception of mission work found eager response especially in the universities, and each year student volunteers were ready to go North at their own expense and give their services to whatever job Grenfell had to offer.

By the efforts of this great man, the life of the settlers was reconstructed; and the American lady who became his wife also became his chief partner.

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