

## THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

THE RIGHTS OF MAN AS DEFINED BY THE RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT HALIFAX, K.G., BRITAIN'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

*"The right to think, speak and act freely within the law, and to have free access to the thoughts of others; the right of free association, both national and international, with their fellow-men; the right to live without fear of aggression, injustice or want; the right to believe and worship as conscience may dictate. It is the vindication of these rights that men passionately desire."*

When we read these words we realised how accurately Lord Halifax had grasped the inspiration of our International Council of Nurses, and how necessary it is that we should do our utmost to help our President to keep its flag flying until the nurses of the world can again unite for the health and happiness of mankind.

### FINANCE.

Questions of finance of the Council have recently received the consideration of the Treasurer, Dame Ellen Musson, and been referred to the President, who is giving serious consideration to war-time organisation, and who has sent us a copy of the following letter communicated to Dame Ellen Musson and which is of interest to members of our National Council of Nurses, who, we feel sure, will wish to render all the help possible for maintaining the stability of the I.C.N. intact under very difficult circumstances. What we need to do is to keep it solvent until such time as it can resume activities.

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT.

To quote from Dean Effie Taylor's letter dated March 27th last:—

"Last evening Miss Banwarth and I worked on the report which is to go out with the financial statement for the year 1940 and the tentative budget for 1941.

Before you receive the general report, I want to be sure that I have covered all the necessary items which we should carefully think through before submitting the proposals to the member organisations.

In your last letter you made a suggestion relative to the reduction of the I.C.N. dues. It would seem to me that this might be a wise provision; but I have refrained from presenting this to our member countries at this time, thinking that perhaps it would only confuse them. I have therefore mentioned only the suspension of dues for 1941, similar to our recommendation of 1940. The question concerning the reduction of dues, it seems to me, would be better understood when we can arrange for a meeting of our Board of Directors. One of the reasons why I thought this a wise procedure is that so many of our national organisations have changed their officers and very few activities are being carried on in their associations. I hope very much you will agree with this suggestion.

You will recall that some time ago I mentioned the fact that our work at Temporary Headquarters has considerably lessened, and for this reason Miss Banwarth and I have felt that the work itself would no longer demand her full time. I have also felt that the office

work was not sufficiently challenging to maintain the interest of a very active young nurse who desired to progress, and particularly when the needs of the world are as great as they are at the present time. (Even in this country we are exceedingly short of nurses, as a large number have already been called away for military duty.)

Miss Banwarth has, therefore, accepted a position as Staff Nurse with the New Haven Visiting Nurse Association, and will give in the future only part of her time to the work of the I.C.N. office. This will considerably reduce the expenses of Temporary Headquarters, and the change will be effective as from June 1st. Miss Banwarth is receiving \$183.33 per month at the present time, and on a part-time basis we have agreed together that it should be \$65 per month. Miss Banwarth will keep up whatever work is necessary at Temporary Headquarters, and will still be entirely responsible for all the records and files which will continue to be housed in one room of her apartment and for which the I.C.N. pays a monthly rental of \$30. This arrangement is perfectly satisfactory to both of us, and I believe we are entirely safe in making this plan with the understanding that should the Council require her full time we will be able to demand it.

### The History of the I.C.N.

In accord with my former letter to you, we have arranged with our Executive Secretary (Miss Schwarzenberg) through means of a scholarship of \$25 per month to compile the materials for the completion of the History of the I.C.N., begun and completed to 1925 by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Miss Breay. You will be glad to know that in addition to your approval of this plan, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Gunn, Miss Stimson, Miss Fairley, Miss Roberts and Miss Stewart have also endorsed the suggestion, and sincerely hope that this piece of work can be accomplished at this time. How much advance we will make will remain to be seen; but I believe that Miss Schwarzenberg is capable of gathering the material together, and this seems to me exceedingly important, especially should those of us who are familiar with the work of the Council be incapacitated and the responsibility of the organisation pass over into less experienced hands.

### Deputy for the Treasurer.

In my former letter you have received my approval of the appointment of Miss Davies (Registrar, G.N.C.) as your deputy. This proposal has also been sanctioned by Miss Gunn, Miss Stimson, and Miss Fairley. I will therefore in the future send Miss Davies an official notification that your recommendation is approved. I am sending a copy of this letter to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in order that both of you will receive this information at the same time. I have heard from Mrs. Fenwick quite frequently, and her letters, as yours, are a great source of inspiration and help to me. You may be certain that the position I am holding—so far away from all of you, and under the present circumstances—is held with a feeling of great responsibility and no little anxiety. Miss Banwarth and I are doing the best we can to keep our member countries in touch with us and with each other, but quite often I fear that our letters are lost, and at best we can only hear from each other once in a while.

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