

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

A Meeting of the Council will be held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Thursday, April 23rd, at 2.30 p.m.

THE GENERAL MEETING.

The General Meeting of Fellows and Members will be held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Wednesday, May 6th, at 3 p.m., at which it is hoped they will make an effort to be present.

AGENDA.

1. Prayers.
2. Minutes.
3. Presentation of the Annual Report.
4. The Financial Report.
5. The Appointment of Auditors.

Reception and Tea at 4.30 p.m. All Fellows and Members are cordially invited to attend the Annual General Meeting and Reception, and thus encourage the Council in its arduous work for their professional interests, and prove their own sense of professional responsibility.

THE SPIRIT OF JEANNE MANCE.

The Canadian Nurse announces that "in the pleasant month of June, nurses from every province will gather in Montreal for the general meeting of the Canadian Nurses' Association, and expect to find inspiration in the noble and ancient city.

Three hundred years ago, the indomitable Jeanne Mance, founder of Canadian nursing, set foot in the little colony at the foot of Mont Royal. For many years, Indian warfare, famine and pestilence were destined to exact a terrible toll, but these hardy pioneers held their ground with a tenacity born of the conviction that they were the builders of a young and vigorous nation.

"It should be profoundly significant to all Canadian nurses that, because she was a woman of great intelligence and fortitude of spirit, Jeanne Mance exercised a profound influence over the development of the colony. Her contribution was far from being limited to charity and good works. She had a clear and fearless conception of the social and economic problems which were involved and possessed the statesmanlike quality which was so eminently characteristic of Florence Nightingale. These two women would have understood and respected each other. Had they met, the impact of one good mind upon another would have kindled a flame in which petty differences would have vanished like smoke. The French woman and the English woman would have clasped hands and gone forward together just as French- and English-speaking Canadian nurses are doing to-day."

Many distinguished persons are to attend and speak at this meeting. Amongst those who have accepted invitations to be present in Montreal are the Hon. Malcolm MacDonald, High Commissioner from Great Britain; Miss Effie J. Taylor, President, I.C.N.; Miss Julia Stimson, President of the American Nurses' Association.

The afternoon and evening of June 25 are set aside for a visit to the Hotel-Dieu Hospital, where the nurses of Canada will observe with suitable ceremony the tercen-

tenary of the arrival of Mlle. Jeanne Mance in Montreal. All arrangements for this interesting event are under the direction of the Reverend Mother Allard, Mother Superior of the Community of Hotel-Dieu of St. Joseph, of Montreal. The immediate and post-war responsibilities of the Canadian Nurses' Association are becoming more extensive and varied with the passing of each month, therefore it is considered most important that there be a full representation of official delegates from the provincial associations of registered nurses at the twenty-first general meeting of the National Organisation.

The President, Miss Grace M. Fairley, Superintendent of Nurses, Vancouver General Hospital, B.C., is known personally to us all, through her active association with the International Council of Nurses, of which she is second Vice-President. The wonderful meeting of the I.C.N., held in Montreal in 1929 is still fresh in memory, and makes one long to fly over the Atlantic and take part in what promises to be a very inspiring occasion in the coming June. Anyway, our sympathy will be warmly with those present in their deliberations for the benefit of the sick and wounded in war.

"The message they are to bring," we are informed, "will be all the more impressive because it will be listened to in the great city which Jeanne Mance helped to build. There is one pilgrimage which every nurse is advised to make in her honour, and that is to her own hospital and school of nursing—l'Hotel-Dieu. Here may be seen the porcelain pharmacy jars which she brought out with her from France and used in her daily work as a nurse. Here in the beautiful modern Hospital will be felt the abiding presence of the Genius Loci—the Spirit of the Place."

LETTERS TO THE MATRON-IN-CHIEF Q.A.I.M.N.S., FROM MEMBERS ON ACTIVE SERVICE—No. 4.

FROM MISS ELIZABETH WILLIAMS, SISTER,
Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., MARCH 30th, 1941:
HOSPITAL CARRIER "PARIS."

H.M. Hospital Carrier *Paris* was bombed by enemy aircraft a few miles from Dunkirk on June 2nd, 1940, while pursuing her duties as a Hospital Carrier. The *Paris* had completed three or four journeys to Dunkirk during the past week and had had to dart in and out at midnight to take her cases and then make a quick getaway; she had been engaged in the last 24 hours in transporting 700 casualties from Calais.

On June 2nd we left "The Downs" at 6.15 p.m., and proceeded to Dunkirk. As we neared the French coast the heavy rumbling of gunfire could be heard, and for miles around the coastline was alight with the flames from bombed oil tanks. In company with two of my colleagues I had remained on deck during the journey over, but as we neared Dunkirk it was time to go to our cabins and prepare ourselves for duty. I had almost taken off my steel helmet when suddenly there was a terrific crash and I was thrown from one end of the cabin to the other. When I got to my feet, I found all the lights had fused and everywhere plunged in darkness. It was terrifying; I thought it was the end, but strangely enough I seemed perfectly calm and managed to pick up my grey print cape from the table; clutching this in my hand I walked, or rather groped, my way into the corridor where I found Colonel _____ ordering everyone "On Deck." It was extraordinary how calm, cool and collected I felt. Usually I hurry in the

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