

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Miss Anna Schwarzenberg, Executive Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, informed us that an unofficial Board Meeting was to be held in New York on October 6th and 7th. She cabled to us for a message. It is good to know that such a reunion is possible on the other side of the Atlantic, as in England the Second Battle of London is still causing death and disaster. Our message was:—

“ASPIRE”

“See that the corner stone of Nursing Organisation is ‘well and truly laid,’ and *never step down*. In the necessary evolution of practice, climbing alertly in the wake of medical progress, we must aspire to be on the spot fully qualified and skilled to help to handle the health of humanity.”

SIDELIGHTS ON NURSING HISTORY.

A letter from Miss Lavinia L. Dock, R.N., Nurse Historian, is received with gratitude by us, when any point of nursing history is under discussion, as her expert opinion can be relied on to clear up points of doubt.

We reprint with pleasure a communication just received from her on the founding of the International Council of Nurses. It is well that such matters should be clearly emphasised whilst founders and practical officers are alive. In England this is specially necessary as the habit of ignoring inspired action by early organisers is so apt to be adopted, and the credit assumed by persons and organisations which usually opposed and stood aside until success was on the crest of the wave, when they had the temerity to seize it—*vide* the State Registration of Nurses and other great movements inspired and brought to fruition by others—thus the value of our professional nursing organ, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, has proved its quality for half a century by printing truth.

AN EXPERT'S MEMORIES.

Dear Mrs. Fenwick,—You may be assured that I have read your most interesting account of the origin of the International Council of Nurses in the July Journal with inner applause, and cries of “Hear, hear!” I do not know where the error you speak of appeared in print; I am quite sure that all nurses knew that international association was planned and proposed and carried to success by the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. However, I think this error may have arisen quite naturally from the fact that our earliest meetings were held in the same places and at the same times as those of the International Council of Women. What may also have added to error is that our American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses did actually affiliate with our National Council of Women for at least a couple of years.

At the Chicago World's Fair everyone was organising. You and Isabel Hampton had talked over these plans when you visited the Johns Hopkins Hospital. The Society of Superintendents was founded there, and Mrs. Sewell regarded it with a friendly and hospitable eye, though, of course, she had no part whatever in its formation or plans.

I have no records here at home and my time sense is becoming vague, but I remember why we had finally to break off with the Council of Women with which we had lined up; I think, chiefly out of gratitude to Mrs. Sewell for her friendliness. Her National Council, as first formed was, as I recall, a federation of various groups. These were supposed to help one another in their causes. I had become Secretary of the Superintendents' Society and we found that the Council of Women made demands that nurses in active service could not meet.

The final one of these was an urgent call to organise PEACE MEETINGS. Well, we were all for Peace—and tried our best.

We did succeed in showing, over our broad land, TWO small and feeble peace meetings. After that I had to write to Mrs. Sewell that we would have to withdraw.

As I remember she was sorry, perhaps a little hurt. And we were sorry, because we had the kindest feelings for her! It was all very personal, but it had become clear that our Nursing Associations must be devoted entirely to our own field of activity.

Perhaps this will clear up the error you mention. I am ever your faithful and admiring friend and co-worker,
LAVINIA L. DOCK.

We are, indeed, the only ones left of those circles of 1893-99. It is hard to realise this.

Your article will be fastened in the History.

THE NURSING PROFESSION ONE AND INDIVISIBLE.

THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

AMERICAN EMBASSY.

London, October 4, 1944.

DEAR MADAM,—On behalf of the Embassy, I want to thank you for your kindness in sending us a copy of your publication for September, and to express our appreciation of the friendly attention it gives to nurses in America, and the coloured nurses of the United States Army who have recently been arriving in Great Britain.

Very truly yours,

DORSEY GASSAWAY FISHER,
Second Secretary of Embassy.

We beg to thank the officials of the American Embassy for their appreciation of our sentiments, expressed in this journal, on the invaluable work being done by our American colleagues in aid of war and alleviation of the sufferings of the gallant troops of the Allied Nations. The Nursing Profession is one and indivisible. In this connection we all owe warm admiration and thanks to the American Ambassador, Mr. John Winant.

THE HIGHER EDUCATION AND ORGANISATION OF SISTER-TUTORS.

We warmly welcome the progressive policy of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales in defining the higher and more efficient education of Sister-Tutors. It is a most important step in the elimination of the unqualified nurse. No doubt, “The History of Nursing,” by Lavinia Dock and Isabel Stewart, will play an important part in the instruction of Student Nurses. It contains a wealth of knowledge not to be obtained elsewhere.

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