

and look forward to the unique work it must accomplish in the organisation and restoration of World Peace.

The serious difficulties under which sanatoria and hospitals have been labouring in regard to the nursing of tuberculosis cases are the subject of a report adopted by the Joint Tuberculosis Council.

The report regards two years (or one year in the case of a general trained nurse) as necessary for an adequate training in modern tuberculosis nursing and adds:—

“In our view the training at present proposed for assistant nurses is too stereotyped, and aims at giving a comprehensive training on a lower plane of proficiency; in other words, producing a pale shadow of a general trained nurse.”

The question of providing adequate nursing for sanatoria for tuberculosis is one of urgency and great difficulty, and should receive immediate attention. In our opinion, the new General Nursing Council for England and Wales must wake up and consider the organisation and standards of nursing in every direction. This cannot be done *in camera* to which past Councils have been so strongly addicted when faced with a difficulty.

We need broad daylight and plenty of publicity. A Nursing Convention with free speech might point the path of progress.

The fact remains the sick must be nursed and lowering standards by hall-marking base metal is not justifiable or efficacious.

At last nursing authorities are waking up to the importance of Sister Tutors at home and abroad, if the standard of nursing is to be maintained, now that a determined effort is being made to depreciate it by local authorities. We are glad to note that at the recent Central Governing Body meeting it was decided to form a South African Sister-Tutors Group. Miss Ffoulkes Pritchard, who was elected Chair of the I.C.N. Standing Committee for Nursing Education, has consented to act as chairman for this Group also. It was agreed to start with a nominal subscription of 5s. per annum and limit full membership to qualified Sister Tutors, but to have associate members of Teaching Sisters to enable all those concerned with nursing education to participate in and benefit from the activities of the Group.

Miss Ffoulkes Pritchard is Assistant Matron at the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Cape Town, and all inquiries and applications should be addressed to her there.

A PROFESSIONAL DUTY.

It has been made evident during the great stress of war nursing that there is need of a really comfortable retreat for old and seriously sick nurses, who may not be attached to hospitals able to care for them for any length of time. We hope this good work may meet with sympathy and support. To endow a bed in such a home would, we feel sure, commend itself to many people, and the nursing organisations would have no difficulty in helping to finance this very necessary work. We know the woman who would make it a success.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

It is very difficult for our colleagues in U.S.A., who have so generously carried on what co-operation is possible with Europe, to realise willing as we are, to come into personal touch with lands across the Atlantic—how difficult it is to do so. Finance and postal arrangements keep tight hold of unnecessary communication. But we greatly value news from overseas, and to quote a long delightful letter from Dean Effie Taylor, our I.C.N. President, makes us long for peace so that we may take part in constructive activities.

Our International President writes from New Haven, U.S.A.:—

“You will be glad to know that we had a very fine meeting on October 6th and 7th. We had representatives from Canada, New Zealand, China, India, Brazil and the United States. In addition we had cables from the following countries:—

Dame Ellen	England.
Mrs. Fenwick	England.
Miss Alexander	South Africa.
Miss Vidal	Brazil.
Miss Hentsch	Switzerland.
Miss Abram	India.
Miss Lambie	New Zealand.
Miss Thorwaldsson	Iceland.
Miss Chu	China.
Miss Lind	Sweden.
Miss Madsen	Denmark.
Miss Sturdza	Roumania.
Miss Sinervo	Finland.
Mlle. de Joannis	France.

“We had your letter and everybody was delighted to hear from you.

“You will be very happy to know that those present definitely stated that they are not in favour of lowering the standards of the I.C.N., and they had no intention of proposing any change in the constitution and by-laws which would effect the standards. I am sure you realise that, at an unofficial meeting, we would not presume to suggest any alteration which would change policies that have been so ably enunciated in our I.C.N. Neither did we feel that we wished to discuss controversial questions at an unofficial meeting particularly at a time when the thinking of all our nursing colleagues is undergoing a change. This, I believe, is inevitable after the experiences we have had during the past five years.

“You do recall I am sure, that at our last Board Meeting in 1939 one of the projects we were instructed to undertake was a study of the Constitution and By-laws relating to certain specific questions which I need not mention in this letter. The Chairman of the Constitution and By-laws Committee very carefully studied the present Constitution in every detail and Mrs. Scott submitted at this meeting what she called an ‘informal progress report,’ and in accord with instructions presented some tentative proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-laws. These were mimeographed and discussed and will be ready to send out before we have a Board Meeting. In fact, it is altogether likely that they may be forwarded to the officers of the I.C.N. when the minutes of the conference are ready for distribution. Mrs. Scott did an excellent job, as she always does. She paid great tribute, in presenting her report, to the women who had constructed the early constitution and stated that she had rarely found so fine a document of its kind. A few suggestions were made which have grown out of our experiences during the past five years during which we have been separated from each other

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