

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

We have received the following letter from Miss Schwarzenberg, which we advise our readers to study.

In addition we have received a chart of a proposed plan for reorganisation to which we hope to allude later.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.
1819 BROADWAY,
NEW YORK 23, N.Y., U.S.A.
October 15th, 1946.

DEAR MEMBER: As you will recall, at the Board of Directors meetings in London, it was agreed that a reorganisation of the I.C.N. was necessary and a study committee was formed for this purpose.

This study committee is meeting in January and we are very anxious to make it a satisfactory and successful session. We need all the help you can give us.

Since it was suggested that my report to the I.C.N. Board of Directors be used as a basis for the study committee, I am enclosing a copy of it for you to study. I will greatly appreciate whatever criticisms and suggestions you have which will help the committee in their work. Will you send them to this office not later than December, 1946?

Sincerely yours,
ANNA SCHWARZENBERG,
Executive Secretary.

A PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE REORGANISATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

For years and especially since the end of the war, I have realised that the International Council of Nurses, in order to meet the needs of the present nursing situation, should undergo some reorganisation. As the Executive Secretary who has been associated with the work of the I.C.N. for 12 years, I feel that I have some knowledge of facts, changes and needs not readily at the disposal of others. The original idea of the I.C.N. and its work in the past are certainly worthy of admiration and praise. I am confident that I am speaking in the spirit of our founder, of the pioneers who helped build the I.C.N., and of all present; when I make the following statement:—

The I.C.N. is faced with an entirely new world, its scope is growing, its influence can be made felt all over the world, its responsibilities are greater now than at any time in its history. In order to fill its new position, a much broader interpretation of its programme is necessary. To arrive at a constructive result, we must approach the subject of reorganisation with an open mind and be ready for constructive criticism. We must proceed with honesty, with loyalty to our professional ideals bearing in mind that we want the best for our profession, for the human beings entrusted to our care, and for the nurses throughout the world. The plan I propose to present is an elaboration of ideas conceived by different people at different times. I do not claim authorship, but I consider it my privilege to interpret it to this meeting and thereby present a basis for discussion. My suggestion is that all members of the Board take this plan to their respective associations, discuss it and send in their comments. I also propose that this Board appoint a committee to consider all aspects of re-organ-

isation, compile all suggestions, and have a definite proposal ready for the Board of Directors and Grand Council Meetings in 1947, so that a full programme of development can be started. The chart attached to this report will make it easy to follow my remarks. I have avoided giving this international organisation a name. I believe that this organisation must be inclusive and must encompass all phases of nursing all over the world. In order to function, it should have:—

A. Officers:—

A president.

Two or three vice-presidents.

A treasurer and a deputy treasurer.

A secretary.

B. *A Grand Council* composed of the international officers, the presidents of member organisations, and four or five delegates of member organisations.

C. *A Board of Directors* composed of the international officers and the presidents of member organisations.

D. *A Headquarters.*

All work, administrative and that of committees, should be centred in a Headquarters Office responsible to the Board of Directors. This Central Headquarters should be directed by a secretary-general with her deputy and private secretary. Under her, various departments should work, each department headed by an expert in the required field. I have tentatively named the departments as follows:—

Publications.—This department should be responsible for the international nursing periodical issued quarterly or monthly as the case may be, and for all reports and papers published at the time of Congresses, etcetera. All correspondence with subscribers to the periodical would be carried on through this office which should be directed by an experienced nurse-editor.

Administration.—The administrative department should carry on all work and correspondence connected with member organisations. Book-keeping would be centred here and all matters pertaining to administration—some of these are listed on the chart, others may be added as the need arises. This department should be under the direction of an experienced nurse-administrator.

Education.—The education department should have two sections. One section for basic nursing education where minimum standards for school of nursing could be set up, where standard text-books on an international basis could be selected and where a register of schools of nursing meeting international standards could be maintained. This register would be the first step in the evaluation of credentials toward eventual reciprocity of registration with international registration of nurses as a goal. The second section should deal with post-graduate nursing education. All information on post-graduate courses should be on file. Nurses taking post-graduate education outside of their own countries should have their names listed on a roster. Scholarships for young nurses unable to get post-graduate education in their own countries should be available through this department. Fellowships for experts and leaders in nursing should be distributed for special studies. Students should be advised and programmes made through this department. Only a nurse-educator with good academic standing and a thorough knowledge

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