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EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, REGISTERED NURSE.

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EDITORIAL.

WHAT EVERY NURSE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

The following explanatory article has been compiled and issued from the Headquarters of the International Council of Nurses in New York, and should be studied by the Nurses of the world, especially by those who contemplate attending the meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Atlantic City next year.

What is the International Council of Nurses?

The I.C.N. is a federation of nurses' associations all over the world. It is a non-sectarian and non-political organisation.

What Does the I.C.N. Stand For?

The I.C.N. stands for self-government by nurses in their associations for the purpose of improving their service to the sick and raising the standards of education and professional ethics.

Who may Become a Member of the I.C.N.?

One nurses' organisation in each country, whose constitution and by-laws harmonise with those of the I.C.N. can become a member.

Can an Individual Nurse become a Member of the I.C.N.?

Every nurse belonging to a national association which has membership in the I.C.N. is automatically a member of the Council.

What Advantages does the I.C.N. Offer to its Members?

The I.C.N. offers international recognition of the professional standards and educational achievements of individual nurses' associations and protects the interests of its members.

Through its meetings and congresses, at which representatives of all member countries may meet, the I.C.N. offers a forum where national and international problems of the nursing profession can be discussed and ways of solving them found.

The Council provides a means of communication between nurses of various nationalities, and aids those nurses who seek to complete their education in countries other than their own by arranging programmes for them.

The I.C.N., through its international position and its publications, has great influence on progressive thinking and has stimulated the development of the various fields of nursing, their practice, and legislation affecting them. This will help towards a more general understanding among the peoples of the world and thus contribute towards a stable peace.

The I.C.N., together with the League of Red Cross Societies, has been instrumental in setting up an inter-

national memorial to Florence Nightingale in the form of an educational foundation. The Florence Nightingale International Foundation offers opportunities for post-graduate studies to professional nurses.

What is the History of the I.C.N.?

The I.C.N. was founded in London in 1899 by Mrs. Ethel Bedford Fenwick, who felt a great need for an international body that could represent the interests of nurses all over the world. The following list gives the names of all member associations in the order in which they joined the I.C.N.

National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, American Nurses' Association, Nurses' Association of Germany, Canadian Nurses' Association, Danish Council of Nurses, National Council of Nurses of Finland, National Nurses' Association of Holland, Trained Nurses' Association of India, New Zealand Registered Nurses' Association, National Federation of Belgian Nurses, Nurses' Association of China, Norwegian Nurses' Association, South African Trained Nurses' Association, Bulgarian Nurses' Association, National Association of Nurses of Cuba, National Association of Trained Nurses of France, National Council of the Trained Nurses of the Irish Free State, National Council of Polish Professional Nurses, Brazilian Graduate Nurses' Association, Graduate Nurses' Association of Greece, Yugoslavian Graduate Nurses' Association, Filipino Nurses' Association, Swedish Nurses' Association, Nurses' Association of Austria, Graduate Nurses' Association of Czechoslovakia, Estonian Nurses' Association, Hungarian Nurses' Association, Icelandic Nurses' Association, Nurses' Association of the Japanese Empire, Australian Nursing Federation, National Association of Trained Nurses of Rumania, National Association of Nurses of Registered Training Schools of Switzerland.

Who are the Officers of the I.C.N.?

The officers of the I.C.N. are the president, three vice-presidents and the treasurer. They are elected by the Grand Council which meets every four years and their term of office lasts until the next Grand Council meeting. The officers, together with the presidents of the national associations, constitute the Board of Directors which meets at least every two years. The Board of Directors plus four accredited delegates from each member country compose the Grand Council.

How is the Work of the I.C.N. carried out?

The I.C.N. carries on its work at its headquarters offices and through the following fourteen committees:

Membership Committee, Congress Programme Committee, Publication Committee, Nominating Committee, Education Committee, Public Health Committee, Private

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