

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

The Board of Directors of the International Council of Nurses held their Meetings in London on September 4th, 5th and 6th, and much work was accomplished.

In connection with the International Congress of Nurses, to be held in U.S.A. next year, it has been agreed that the Board of Directors shall meet in Washington, May 4th to 9th, 1947, and the Congress be held in Atlantic City, May 12th to 16th.

The Programme Committee has been formed, and we hope that we shall soon be in a position to make known to our readers full details concerning the Congress, the arrangements of which are in course of preparation.

The meetings were pronounced "wonderfully interesting," great plans being made to meet the health situation of each country in the world as far as nursing and nursing education are concerned.

Amongst the delegates joining their colleagues in Great Britain were representatives from the United States of America, Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, India, Belgium, China, Norway, South Africa, France, Eire, the Philippines, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Iceland and Switzerland. A truly wonderful accomplishment coming as it did so soon after the world-wide havoc caused by the war.

The following telegram was despatched to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Founder of the International Council of Nurses:—

"The Board of Directors of the I.C.N. assembled in its first official meeting since 1939 sends its Founder and Honorary President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, its fond greetings and sincere good wishes for her prompt recovery from the sad accident which deprives them of her presence and valuable advice at this time.

EFFIE J. TAYLOR, President."

Meetings of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation are also taking place in London, and arrangements were made for the entertainment of the delegates.

On Friday evening, September 6th, 1946, a Reception was held in the Mansion House, arranged by the President and members of the Association of Hospital Matrons, to meet the members of the International Council of Nurses and the Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

Kind permission was granted by the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor of London, who graciously attended with the Lady Mayoress. In warmly welcoming the guests, who came from U.S.A., Canada and Australia, and many European countries, and the Philippines, the Lord Mayor paid high tribute to the excellent and vital work carried out by the Nurses of the world. Miss Helen Dey, C.B.E., R.R.C., President of the Association of Hospital Matrons, then welcomed the guests in her own gracious and inimitable style.

Amongst the well-known and easily recognised visitors from abroad were: Dean Effie Taylor, the

International President; Miss Anna Schwarzenberg, Executive Secretary; Miss G. Fairley, of Canada; Miss G. B. Alexander, R.R.C., of South Africa; and the Baroness von Hogendorp (Netherlands), who is the newly elected President of the Old Internationals.

Prominent members of the British Nursing Profession included: Dame Ellen Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and Matron of Guy's Hospital; Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Hon. Secretary of the National Council of Nurses, and Matrons of leading Hospitals in London and the provinces.

Mrs. E. Bedford Fenwick, S.R.N., President of the British College of Nurses, Foundress and first President of the International Council of Nurses, was unavoidably absent owing to illness, and many kind enquiries were made by the guests as to her progress and many were the good wishes for her complete recovery.

Nurses from Greece, Austria, Czechoslovakia and the Philippines mingled with the guests, and the evening was declared a great success.

On September 10th, delegates were entertained at Blenheim Palace, where they were received by Her Grace the Duchess of Marlborough.

Other parties were arranged, and hospitality offered to the guests, which was much appreciated.

At the conclusion of the Meetings the following messages were received by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick from the Norwegian Nurses' Association, and the Swedish Nurses' Association:—

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,

The Norwegian Nurses' Association wishes to express its sincere thanks for your pioneer work for all of us—the nurses of the world—and we hope for your recovery.

As the representatives of our association, we tell you how greatly we miss you at the meetings.

With deep respect and affection, we are, sincerely yours,

MARIT BERG-DOMAAS.
BERTHA HELGESTAD.
BERGLJOT LARSSON.

"DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,

In the I.C.N. Board of Directors and other international meetings, feelings of international understanding and good will as well as enthusiasm, are a wonderful reality. Much of this depends on the seed you laid down in 1899 in Matron's House at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and on the excellent way in which you have furthered the work.

May it be permitted to us two representatives from Sweden to express to you our homage and our thanks and tell you how we regret your accident that forces you to stay in bed and regret that we could not meet you?

Yours very sincerely,

GERDA HOJER,
President, Swedish Nurses' Association.
ELISABET DILLNER."

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