

A LOSS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

It is with regret that we record the death of Miss Nina D. Gage, R.N., M.A., in Syracuse, New York, on October 18th, 1946, after a long illness.

Miss Gage was intensely interested in China, and did much pioneer work there, helping to organise the Nurses' Association of China, of which she was the President for two years. She was the organiser and for many years director of the Hunan-Yale School of Nursing in Changsha, Hunan, and later became its Dean.

President of the International Council of Nurses from 1925-1929, Miss Gage presided over the International Congress of Nurses in Montreal in 1929, which was renowned for splendid organisation.

In 1928 Miss Gage was appointed Executive Secretary of the National League of Nursing Education.

After holding various administrative posts, she was appointed Director of Nurses, Protestant Hospital, Nashville, Tennessee, from which post she retired in 1945.

A lady of high intellectual and professional attainments, her influence will be much missed.

THE PASSING OF A PIONEER.

MISS ELMA M. SMITH, M.B.C.N.

It is with very sincere regret that we report the death on December 18th, 1946, of Miss Elma M. Smith. Trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, from 1881-1884, she had wide professional experience, and her name is No. 20 on the State Register of Nurses.

One of her colleagues writes: I was one of her probationers 50 years ago and had the honour and pleasure of her life-long friendship.

After experience at York and the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, she became Matron of the Central London Sick Asylum, Cleveland Street, London, W., and, I think, she was the first or one of the first to turn the infirmaries into training schools for nurses and insisted on the three-year training and certificate.

In place of the old staff, who were uneducated and had no hospital experience (of the old ward-maid type), she got young women of good social standing and education and demanded a good amount of grit to take the three-year course of training.

It was decidedly uphill work, but it was a great success.

In the 1914 war, Miss Smith was repeatedly asked if she had more nurses to send to the various battlefields, as the previous ones had proved to be well disciplined, good and sympathetic nurses.

Whilst being a very strict matron, she was very just and ever ready to befriend and help and advise her probationers. She instilled the highest ideals, encouraging them to attend Church, and she would go with them or invite them to go with her. She took the keenest interest and joined in their recreation, in visiting picture and art galleries, historical places of interest, in boating and walking expeditions.

Her mail was always most numerous and interesting from her nurses in all parts of the world. The last six years of her life she was practically blind, but she always remained keenly interested in progress and development of all kinds, especially in the nursing world. She was an ardent worker for the passing of the Nurses' Registration Act of 1919. Her exceedingly bright and charming manner gained for her a large circle of interesting and devoted friends.

A. E. S.

Miss Elma Smith was a most loyal supporter of the original policy of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and from its inception was an enthusiastic member of the British College of Nurses. She will be sadly missed by a large circle of colleagues and friends.

THE DEATH OF MISS G. M. GIRDLER.

We are sad to learn from *The New Zealand Nursing Journal* that Miss G. M. Girdler has died, at Dunedin.

She was trained at the General Infirmary, Northampton, and later served in the South African War. In 1909 she went to New Zealand, and was Matron of the Rock and Pillar Sanatorium, and was the first Matron of the Pleasant Valley Sanatorium at Palmerston.

She gave many years of devoted service to the Registered Nurses' Association of New Zealand, and was in charge of the Nurses' Club and Bureau for 23 years, and Secretary of the Otago Branch of the Association for 21 years.

Miss Girdler was a subscriber to this Journal for upwards of twenty-one years.

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

A Meeting of the General Nursing Council for Scotland was held on Friday, December 20th, 1946. Miss E. Brodie, M.B.E., Vice-Chairman, occupied the Chair and extended a welcome to Mr. W. E. Gray Muir, W.S., who has been appointed Member by the Privy Council in succession to the late Sir John Lorne MacLeod.

Registration.

Reported eight Nurses had attained the age of 21 since the date of the last meeting; nine applications for re-inclusion in the Register were granted after non-payment of the Retention Fee; four applications for Registration by Reciprocity were granted to Nurses already registered in England and Wales; and one application granted to a Nurse already registered in British Columbia, Canada.

Sister Tutors.

Registration as Sister Tutors was granted to 16 applicants making the number of Registered Sister Tutors 42.

It was agreed that Sister Tutor (Rule I B) will cease to be operative after December 31st, 1946, except in exceptional cases.

It was agreed to advertise additional Sister Tutor Rule to provide for Registration by Reciprocity with the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

Assistant Nurses.

It was agreed to adopt a badge for Enrolled Assistant Nurses and a design was accepted. The badge to be of silver and blue enamel.

It was agreed to accept applications for enrolment as Intermediate Assistant Nurses from persons who applied too late for enrolment as Existing Assistant Nurses, provided their experience is in accordance with the requirements of the Rules for Intermediate Assistant Nurses.

Date of Next Meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting of Council be held on Friday, January 24th, 1947.

INTERNATIONAL NURSING BULLETIN.

We have just received the November, 1946, copy of the *International Nursing Bulletin* with an apology for delay in publication owing to various shortages which still exist as a consequence of the war. The *Bulletin* will continue its present shape and size for another year; the yearly subscription will therefore remain at \$1.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)