

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION.

Executive Secretary of the International Council of Nurses.

The appointment has been announced of Miss D. Caroline Bridges, R.R.C., S.R.N., S.C.M., to the position of Executive Secretary of the I.C.N. to replace Miss Anna Schwarzenberg who resigned in September, 1947.

News from National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees.

INDIA.—The Indian Committee has appointed Miss Miriam Korah as Hon. Secretary. She will relieve Miss Wilkinson the President of the Committee who has recently acted also as Hon. Secretary.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Her Grace the Duchess of Marlborough, J.P., has consented to replace the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley as Chairman of the F.N.M.C. of Great Britain. This Committee hopes to raise its quota to the Endowment Fund within the next year and their new Chairman representing the British Red Cross on the Committee, will be a valuable link with the British public.

The Committee have informed us that it expects to open Burleigh House at 173/5 Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7, this September as a residence for students attending post-graduate nursing courses in London. The residence will accommodate about 40 persons. The valuable national furnishings which were saved from 15, Manchester Square have been donated to the F.N.M.C. of Great Britain, which will use them to decorate some eight to ten bed-sitting rooms. These rooms will thus each have its national character and will give to Burleigh House something of the international character of the old residence.

THE NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF CHINA.

It has given us very great pleasure to handle again the *Journal* of the Nurses' Association of China after a long interval owing to the World War, but alas! it is mostly printed in Chinese.

As an appreciation of the work done by Miss Cora E. Simpson, R.N. is recorded in English, we think this article will be of interest to our readers:—

CORA E. SIMPSON, R.N.,

General Secretary Emeritus of the Nurses' Association of China.

Miss Cora E. Simpson came out to China in 1907 as the first fully qualified nurse to be sent out by the Woman's Board of the Methodist Episcopal Mission in the U.S.A.

Passing through Shanghai on her way to Foochow her first introduction to China was when she was taken out to the Margaret Williamson Hospital, and Dr. Reifsnnyder, placing a tiny babe a few hours old in her arms, said: "This is your real welcome to China." The little thing took possession of her heart and with it the whole nation came in and has camped there ever since. This was the hospital to which the first trained nurse had come to China in 1884—Miss Elizabeth McKechnie.

Arriving in Foochow Miss Simpson found there were plenty of sick people but no nurses of any kind. The hospital, similar to those in other parts of the country, was an old mud house, the operating room a corner of the veranda boarded up and mudded over. "The patients came in, brought their own food, and relatives to care for them. They wore their own clothes, many times inhabited. They objected to baths. It was a regular thing to have a lot of sweet potatoes under the bed, a dried fish tied to the foot and more delicate edibles in the bed with the patient for safe keeping. . . . No nurses, no textbooks, no schools of nursing, not even a word in the language for 'Nurse'."

The work of caring for the sick was looked down on as work only fit for coolies. The early nurses were told that China did not need nurses and had no place for them; but a morning in the clinic proved different.

With the problems came the longing for information as to how others were meeting them. One day, a few months after arriving in Foochow, Miss Simpson wrote a letter of enquiry about nurses' work to Dr. Phillip Cousland. This letter and his reply were published in the *China Medical Journal* of 1908 and with it a call was sent out to interest nurses in the work of organising an association. This was the real origin of the Nurses' Association coming into existence and of Dr. Cousland becoming known as the father of the N.A.C. Then followed the definite organization of the Association in 1909, the first informal conference in Kuling in 1912 and the resolution to have an Educational Committee to decide on registration, curriculum, textbooks, examinations and diplomas...the first National Conference in 1914 and the first issue of the *Journal* in 1920.

While continuing her work in Foochow Miss Simpson kept constantly in touch with all the steady development of the N.A.C. After fifteen years' service there she had the satisfaction of seeing a splendid up-to-date four-storey Hall of Healing. Her school had received the first registration certificate issued in China and the hospital had now many well-trained nurses on the staff. In addition to the regular hospital work a service on behalf of lepers had been established. During a furlough, study in a national public health course had enabled her on her return to make it possible to have this department opened up in connection with the hospital service.

In 1922, the year that the N.A.C. was admitted to full membership in the International Council of Nurses, Miss Simpson received the call to become the General Secretary of the Nurses' Association of China.

This new position involved pioneer work, dangers of travel, misunderstanding, and work that would call for all one's strength, fostering a cause still unknown and unappreciated. Her love for the N.A.C. and absolute faith in its cause enabled her to accept the challenge to attempt the impossible.

The travelling involved took Miss Simpson to all parts of China, east, west, north and south, and she has given a most interesting record of these times in the book published in 1927, *A Joy Ride Through China for the N.A.C.* Her indomitable enthusiasm and optimism led to a rapid growth in membership and the number of schools registered.

Soon the work required two secretaries instead of one. At first Miss Hope Bell of the London Missionary Society was the co-secretary with Miss Simpson and then in 1928 Miss Shih Hsi-en, a Chinese secretary, was appointed. During her term of service the headquarters was moved first to Peiping and then to Nanking. Shortly after her marriage different ones filled the position until the appointment of Miss Tien Tsai-lee, the present General Secretary, in 1934.

Gradually arrangements were also made so that all the work involved in the giving of examinations, etc., could be taken over by the Ministry of Education. The erection of the present headquarters building was completed and a formal opening ceremony held on June 10th, 1937. Almost immediately afterwards Miss Tien left for London to attend the meeting of the International Council of Nurses.

While there was no question of examinations to be given that year, and the last of the 6,357 diplomas had been sent out in the Spring, there were great responsibilities to be faced alone, especially when the war clouds were hovering around Nanking. Miss Simpson was one of the last ones to leave Nanking to make the then perilous voyage up the Yangtze to Hankow. From there she was a passenger on the last trip of the International Train from Hankow to Canton and Hongkong. Finally, she reached

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