

strength and vitality; the gradual recognition by nations and states of their responsibility for the preparation of nurses, and the active interest of educational authorities in such preparation: ('We shall not rest,' said Miss Annie Goodrich in 1915, 'until institutions of learning as well as institutions for the sick have opened their doors to our members'). The development of advanced professional education, preparing and equipping nurses for administration, teaching and many spheres of leadership; the advancement of our knowledge and understanding in the social implications of all sickness, mental as well as physical; the consciousness of our obligations in the work of prevention; the need for an international standard of nursing service and of nursing education, and a code of ethics pertaining to both. In all of these movements our Council has been in the vanguard. At our Conferences there have been 'clarion calls' to progress in all of these fields. Pronouncements have been made which have anticipated and precipitated events which we now recognise as outstanding.

"In June of 1948, the International Council of Nurses was elected into official relationship with the World Health Organisation—that vital health section of the United Nations—and is therefore now recognised and accepted as a body so organised as to be capable of representing the views and furthering the purposes of professional nursing throughout the world. This relationship confers both privileges and responsibilities and is a reward for the vision and foresight of our Founder, and a culminating factor of half a century of progress in nursing service and the professional organisation on which it depends. What, then, is outstanding in all of this record?"

"Surely that our Council was founded in a century when professional work for women and organisation for such work was all but unknown; that it has earned and retained the support and loyalty of nurses the world over; that it has survived two world wars and built up bonds of friendship and fellowship which neither wars nor the repercussions of war can sever, and in so doing has become an instrument in the cause of peace and goodwill; that it has allied itself with great and beneficent international health movements, and can play its part as a self-governing and highly organised professional group in world deliberations.

"The past is inspiring, the future is challenging, the present is our responsibility. Let us, therefore, while shouldering the responsible duties, and in the consciousness of the achievements of the past which we have inherited, so plan for the future with wisdom, foresight and integrity, that when succeeding generations look back on us as we ourselves survey the past, then our page of history shall seem no less inspiring than those that have gone before."

Miss Gerda Höjer was in the Chair at the Meeting, the climax of which was the roll-call of representatives of the different nations of 35 countries.

#### Countries Reinstated in Their Former Positions.

The German Nurses' Association, the Trained Nurses' Association of Austria, and the Japanese Midwives, Clinical Nurses and Public Health Nurses' Association were reinstated in the International Council of Nurses, by unanimous consent.

#### Admission of New Member Associations.

The ceremony of admitting new member countries always remains one of the finest moments of the Congress, which adds to the further building up of this great union of professional nurses.

It was, therefore, with much enthusiasm that the Italian Nurses' Association, the Southern Rhodesia Nurses' Association, the National Korean Nurses' Association, the

National Association of Graduate Haitian Nurses, and the Turkish Nurses' Association were admitted.

The delegates were shown the Exhibition in the Hall, which was greatly enjoyed.

The afternoon Session was devoted to addresses on "The Medicine of To-morrow" and "The Position of the Nurse." The discussion was opened by Mr. J. Axel Höjer, Director-General of the Swedish Board.

In the evening the delegates to the Congress had the choice of seeing a performance of a Chronicle Play entitled "The History of Nursing in the Northern Countries," at the Theatre Royal, or of hearing a Concert in the National Museum by the Stockholm Boys' Choir, or else of visiting Prince Eugen's Picture Gallery at Waldemarsudde.

The deliberations of the Congress continued for the next three days, during which time the position in the nursing field all over the world was viewed from many aspects.

There was much discussion when it was frequently, although regretfully, admitted that many nursing standards, through force of circumstances, had been lowered and the Nursing profession had lost its vocational call.

In spite of the great advance the Nursing Profession has made, so much helped through the spirit of international union, the call for the vocational spirit which demands self-sacrifice of the individual, is as urgently required to-day as in the great pioneer days before the days of the medieval queens.

We believe that such is the only solution to the modern impasse now facing the nurses of the world to be solved.

## International Conference of Nurses.

THE Interim Conference of the I.C.N. held in Stockholm, Sweden, to celebrate its 50th anniversary is now over, and the nurses of the world have returned to their respective countries. What an inspiring Congress it was! The debt of gratitude we all owe to the Swedish nurses can never be repaid. Their hospitality was unbounded and their organisation for housing, feeding and entertaining the 3,500 delegates and other nurses attending the Congress, was beyond praise.

We were met on arrival and conducted to our various places of stay; some to hotels, some to hospitals, and others like myself, to private houses. Everyone was made to feel at home by the wonderful welcome we received.

Saturday was a day of settling in, and for some, a day of sightseeing. There is so much to see in the lovely city of Stockholm that one could only concentrate on the more important buildings.

Sunday brought the first ceremonies of the Conference. Registration took place in the Congress hall and each nurse received a blue folder containing badge, tickets, and literature relating to the Conference. In the evening beautiful services were held in all the churches in Stockholm. These followed the same pattern, and the keynote was one of dedication, symbolised by the procession of nurses in uniform carrying candles to the altar; a simple, dignified symbol of dedication on behalf of all of us to the work ahead, both at the Congress and in our daily lives.

The Opening Session commenced at 9.45 a.m., on Monday morning. The hall was packed and Miss Gerda Höjer presided. After the arrival of Princess Sibylla of Sweden, the addresses of welcome began, and the Congress was

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