

have mastery of the language of the country to which she goes.

Exchanges of nurses among the northern European countries have been arranged since 1938. A specific procedure for arranging study tours has been set up by the American Nurses' Association, and the Canadian Nurses' Association has appointed a special committee to study the question of exchanges. In other countries, however, exchanges of nurses for study or for employment have not been administered or directed by the national nurses' association. A definite plan for such visits, centrally administered, would make the international exchange of nurses more valuable to the nurses themselves and to the profession, and would contribute to the development of greater understanding among the nurses of the various countries.

The Grand Council has authorised the I.C.N. headquarters to serve as a clearing house through which exchange of nurses, for study and employment, can be arranged. Definite policies governing such exchanges have been set up.

Nursing Education.

Ruth Sleeper (U.S.), Chairman of the Education Committee, presented an outline of (1) minimum standards of education in nursing schools to be used by the Committee on Membership in determining eligibility of a national organisation for membership in the I.C.N. and (2) minimum standards to be used by schools which are endeavouring to establish basic programmes in professional nursing. The latter includes standards regarding the purpose, organisation, and administration of the school; the faculty, curriculum, facilities for instruction and for supervised practice, student personnel and counselling programmes, records, accreditation. The committee will further outline recommended minimum standards of equipment for classrooms and for nursing practice and science laboratories. It will also make a comparative study of admission standards for nursing schools in the various countries.

The Florence Nightingale International Foundation Affiliates with the I.C.N.

The post-war period in nursing had been characterised internationally by a resurgence of interest in the I.C.N. and the F.N.I.F. This is due in some degree to the pressure throughout the world for more nursing. It is perhaps more directly due to the speed with which both resumed work after the war. The I.C.N. already has two international meetings to its credit. The F.N.I.F., through its national committees, has secured funds for scholarships and has promoted improvement of nursing and nursing education by guiding the use of the scholarships. There has, however, been a considerable amount of confused thinking or lack of information about the functions of each organisation.

A special study committee of the I.C.N., headed by Mrs. Alma H. Scott (U.S.A.), presented an excellent report on the structure, functions, and relationships of that body to the Board of Directors and the Grand Council in Washington in 1947. At approximately the same time, the governing body of the F.N.I.F. decided that its structure, functions, and relationship should be studied by an expert in educational administration. The report of that study made by Muriel Uprichard under the direction of the Professor of Education at the University of London was printed in 1948 and circulated for study by the national F.N.I.F. committees and by the governing bodies of the I.C.N., the F.N.I.F., and the League of Red Cross Societies.

The Hamley-Uprichard report pointed out that as the programme of the World Health Organisation grows in power and influence there should be a strong well-organised international nursing organisation to promote the best interests of professional nursing throughout the world. The type of programme operated by the F.N.I.F., that is,

the encouragement of professional development through the provision of scholarship and exchange students, has become very popular and had been adopted by a variety of agencies with varying standards. The report, in essence, is a clarion call to the nurses of the world to promote, through the I.C.N., a substantial well-defined programme based on unity of purpose within the profession. This calls for dynamic moral, technical, and financial support from the national active members of the I.C.N. It calls for a closer relationship between the I.C.N. and the F.N.I.F. than had previously existed. It calls for a clear-cut and effectively administered programme.

At a joint meeting of the Grand Council of the F.N.I.F. and the Board of Directors of the I.C.N. in London, 1948, the two bodies agreed to appoint a Joint Planning Committee to work out the administrative details for the reorganisation of the F.N.I.F. as a legal entity within the I.C.N. The Chairman of the Joint Planning Committee was Miss Yvonne Hentsch, who gave the report of this Committee to the Grand Council of the F.N.I.F. meeting in Stockholm, June 3 and 4. Seventeen national committees were represented, as were the League of Red Cross Societies and the I.C.N., the "parents" of the F.N.I.F. In the absence of the president, Miss Lambie, New Zealand, Jeanette Merry of England was elected chairman.

The "Trust Deed" of the foundation is equivalent to the articles on incorporation of an American organisation. The Joint Planning Committee and the Executive Secretaries of the two organisations spent many hours in preparing amendments to this document which was reviewed by legal advisers of the Foundation before the committee report was prepared.

The Grand Council of the F.N.I.F. devoted an entire day to discussing the proposed amendments. It then voted unanimously for reorganisation of the F.N.I.F. within the I.C.N. The existing rules and regulations were revoked and others substituted. These decisions which were not easily arrived at, are based upon unanimous acceptance of the principle that nursing must present a united front to the world and that the I.C.N. must, therefore, be effectively equipped to deal with international problems related to nursing.

The Grand Council of the F.N.I.F. then sent the F.N.I.F. documents as amended, together with suggested amendments to the I.C.N.'s Constitution and By-laws, to the Board of Directors of the I.C.N. That body after careful consideration of the proposed affiliation or "merger" accepted the recommendations of the F.N.I.F.

The name of the new organisation is "The International Council of Nurses with which is associated the Florence Nightingale International Foundation." The F.N.I.F. thus becomes a structural and functional unit within the I.C.N., governed by a Grand Council which will be identical with the Board of Directors of the I.C.N. It will have a council appointed by the Board of Directors of the I.C.N., consisting of not less than seven or more than nine members. To this council will be delegated the important functions of setting up and implementing the programme of the Foundation.

National F.N.I.F. committees will be set up by whatever means is appropriate in the country concerned, but wherever possible the committee will be a standing or special committee of the national association affiliated with the I.C.N.

It is anticipated that the F.N.I.F. functioning within the I.C.N., will be responsible for the development of designated aspects of a purposeful, long-range educational programme. Although its responsibilities are not in the proposed trust deed, the Hamley-Uprichard study suggests a number of possibilities. For example, if the foundation continues a scholarship-granting programme, shall criteria be developed

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