

The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

THERE WILL BE A MEETING of the Grand Council of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, November 23rd, 1950, in the Great Hall at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.1. There will be a professional conference in the morning of the same day.

International Council of Nurses

WITH WHICH IS ASSOCIATED THE

Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES and the Chairman of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation Council announce with pleasure the appointment of Miss Ellen Johanne Broe as Director of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

Miss Broe received her training at the School of Nursing of the Bispebjerg Hospital, Copenhagen. In 1936 she was granted a Fellowship by the Danish State Health Department, and studied hospital administration and teaching in schools of nursing at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York. In 1947 Miss Broe was given a three-months travel grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, and studied the integration of Public Health in nursing education. This study was undertaken at the University School of Nursing in Toronto, Canada, and at various University Schools of Nursing in the United States.

Miss Broe has had broad experience, having at various times worked in England, France, the Netherlands, and the U.S.A., as well as in her own country. Since 1938 she has been Director of Post-Graduate Courses of the Post-Graduate School for Nurses at Aarhus University, Denmark. From 1941 to 1946 Miss Broe served on a Committee set up by the Danish Council of Nurses to study the status of nursing education in Denmark, and for three years she was Chairman of this Committee. The report was eventually submitted to the Minister of Internal Affairs.

Miss Broe has on four occasions been a delegate from the Danish Council of Nurses to I.C.N. Congresses—in Montreal in 1929, in Paris in 1933, in Atlantic City in 1947, and in Stockholm in 1949. From 1946 until the re-organisation of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation she served on the Committee of Management and the Education Committee of the Foundation, and was elected a member of the new Florence Nightingale International Foundation Council, which held its first meeting in March, 1950.

The Florence Nightingale International Foundation under its new Director will face a future of great possibilities, and Miss Broe will undoubtedly receive the good wishes and warm support of her friends and colleagues in many parts of the world. It is hoped that she will be able to take up her new duties early in 1951.

We offer our congratulations to Miss Broe and wish her a happy and useful term of office.

We are hoping to publish a photograph of her in a future issue.

Centenary of Famous Mental Hospital.

FRIERN HOSPITAL, FORMERLY KNOWN AS Colney Hatch Asylum, celebrated its centenary on Friday, October 27th.

The story began in 1847 with the appointment of a committee by the Middlesex Justices of the Peace to find a suitable site for a building to accommodate 1,000 patients.

In May, 1849, the Prince Consort laid the foundation stone and it was announced that the Queen had subscribed £100 to open the "Victoria Fund" to assist those discharged as cured. This fund was merged later with the Queen Adelaide Fund.

When the huge building was ready for occupation in October, 1850, it was described as being "unrivalled as a lunatic asylum, unique in size, elevation and accommodation in this country or perhaps any other." The cost amounted to £138,000, to which was added the cost of equipment, a further £110,000. Though erected at the worst period of Victorian architecture, the design in the Italianate style is impressive and attractive.

The opening of Colney Hatch Asylum came at a time when the treatment of mental troubles was still both primitive and unsympathetic. Sufferers among the poor were kept in shocking conditions in workhouses, prisons and houses of correction, where "restraint" with strait jackets, the glove, the muff and the chain was the order of the day. From the



THEN

outset the policy at Colney Hatch startled many people, for a broad, humane treatment of non-restraint was employed. In the words of an 1850 report, the purpose to exercise "The magic of kindness."

The first thing that happened when a patient was brought to Colney Hatch was the removal of strait jackets and often restraints. The only "seclusion" practised was the confinement for their own safety of patients who became violent; and even the padded cells had half doors to reduce actual seclusion to a minimum.

As one observer remarked—"It is incredible that so many insane persons should be completely divested of all "restraints."

By the third year there were 1,250 patients at Colney Hatch. Yet the report showed that during 1852 only 17 patients escaped, all of whom were traced and brought back. Later a woman escaped and was not traced; she returned her clothes, however, with a polite note thanking the matron for "past favours."

To read reports written in those early days is to see how modern methods were being anticipated. Patients were encouraged to work on the farm (Colney Hatch had its own

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)