

Season's Greetings from ICN Headquarters

From Adele Herwitz, Executive Director
Nurses, Student Nurses and Friends of Nursing,

Framed and hung near the doors leading to the Board room here at headquarters are photographs of all the nurses who have held office as ICN President. Each of these nurses as she relinquished office to her successor has given a watchword to the nurses of the world.

At some time during each day I walk past these pictures and I have sought to become more intimately acquainted with their history. With this in mind it seemed appropriate to incorporate the fourteen watchwords from 1901 to 1969 into a greeting to our members, colleagues and friends scattered over the vast continents and tiny islands throughout the world.

I hope you will share the following watchword greeting with the nurses of your community, state or country, whether by radio, television, circular letter or personal exchange. In this way let us, the nurses of the world, unite and remember our strong traditional ties with one another.

In order that we may be able to provide mankind with the best quality nursing service which was the aspiration of ICN founder members and is ours today, let us approach our work in 1971 with a mind open to inquiry. Let us in unity and loyalty to our own profession combine our efforts, and with a sense of responsibility move towards our objectives which are the promotion of health and the care of the sick. Let us have faith in our combined wisdom to determine our role on the health team now and for the future. Let us have the courage to enunciate our goals and the tenacity to persevere until they are achieved. And, as we move forward together, may I wish that there be peace and concordia in your life, your country and among all nations.

As the year 1971 begins, nurses throughout the world will observe in their own ways the customs unique to their faiths and beliefs at this time of goodwill. This same spirit will prevail at headquarters among our staff from eleven countries; Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Haiti, Jamaica, New Zealand, Switzerland, Uruguay, the United Kingdom and U.S.A. The nature of our work and our contacts with you during your visits to Geneva, at meetings, through correspondence and in field programmes enable us to identify with each global area and with each one of you.

During the past year we have shared in your achievements, delights and disappointments. And through this informal letter we would like to share with you seasons greetings and the good wishes of each one of the staff to each one of you wherever you may be.

WHO Regional Committee

*By Miss P.M. Anthony

THE Regional Committee for South East Asia of World Health Organisation held its 23rd session from September 22-28, 1970 in New Delhi.

The Session inaugurated by Mr. G.S. Pathak, Vice President of India, was attended by Dr. Bernard, Assistant Director General, who represented the Director General of WHO, representatives of eight countries of S.E. Asia of U.N. and Specialised Agencies, 16 of non-Governmental Organisations and an observer of the Ford Foundation.

The session reviewed the assistance in the Health field rendered by WHO to the Governments of the countries of the Region and adopted WHO's Regional Health Programme and the Budget proposals for the year 1972.

The following Statement was made by the representative, International Council of Nurses :

International Council of Nurses

"The International Council of Nurses assisted National Nurses' Associations in developing and improving health services for the public, the practice of nursing and the social and economic welfare of nurses. It also provided a means of communication between nurses throughout the world for better mutual understanding and co-operation and served as the spokesman for nurses at the International level. The International Council of Nurses appreciated the World Health Organisation's support for Government Projects directed towards improvement of the quality of nursing education and services and the development of policies and procedures for effective control and management of the nursing component of health services."

She also emphasized the need for continued support from WHO for such projects and thanked the Regional Committee for its invitation to the Session.

In his Annual Report 1969 of the WHO the Regional Director, Dr. V.T.H. Gunaratne said :

"Some major health problems not only are persisting, but are even becoming more acute and difficult to cope with, in spite of all the efforts of health ad-

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*Miss P. M. Anthony, President, Delhi State Branch of TNAI, was nominated by the Headquarters Committee, to represent The International Council of Nurses on behalf of TNAI at the Conference.

How The Sun, The Moon and The Wind, Went Out To Dinner

By Rev. Kenneth Sharp

ONE DAY the Sun, the Moon, and the Wind went out to dine with their uncle and aunt, the Thunder and Lightning. Their mother (one of the most distant stars you see far up in the sky) waited alone for her children's return.

Now both the Sun and the Wind were greedy and selfish. They enjoyed the great feast that had been prepared for them without a thought of saving any of it to take home to their mother—but the Moon did not forget her. Of every dainty dish that was brought round she put a small portion aside that the Star might also have a share in the treat.

On their return, their Mother, who had kept watch for them all night long with her little bright eye, said, 'Well, children, what have you brought home for me?' Then the Sun, who was the eldest, said, 'I have brought nothing home for you. I went out to enjoy myself with my friends not to fetch a dinner for my mother!'. And the Wind said, 'Neither have I brought anything home for you, mother. You could hardly expect me to bring a collection of good things for you, when I merely went out for my own pleasure. But the Moon said: 'Mother, fetch a plate, see what I have brought you.' And putting the things she had brought on the plate she gave her mother such a choice dinner as never seen before.

Then the Star turned to the Sun and spoke thus; 'Because you went out to amuse yourself with your friends, and feasted and enjoyed yourself, without any thought of your mother at home, men will hate you. Your rays will ever be hot and scorching and men will cover their heads when you appear.

Then she turned to the Wind and said: 'You also forgot your mother in the midst of your selfish pleasures. You shall always blow in the hot dry weather, and shall parch and shrivel all living things. And men will try to avoid you and escape from you.

But to the moon she said, 'Daughter, because you remembered your mother, and kept a share for her in your enjoyment, from henceforth you shall ever be cool and calm and bright. No noxious glare shall accompany your pure rays, and men shall always call you blessed.'

May be when you read this story and think on it, you will find it has something to say to you. If so, don't read it just once and put it aside. Rather read it again and again until its lesson sinks deep down into your very being.

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ministrators. At the same time one has the impression that among Public Health Administrators and Economists, there is a degree of unfounded optimism and complacency towards health problems, with the result that, in the allocation of public funds, the priority given to health may become even lower than before—such a trend and loss of interest in health is alarming. The emphasis on purely economic aspects of development should be countered. Developing National Health Planning as an integral part of development planning is welcome, but unless health expenditure is considered an investment this might remain a theoretical exercise.

Dr. Gunaratne also cautioned that: "the burden of communicable diseases remains a heavy one and despite the quite impressive early results of mass control activities, the attainment of the ultimate objective will depend upon the organisation of an efficient and functional health structure in which every element including the hospital (which has been often neglected in this respect) will play its part, and in which all categories of health personnel will be effectively and economically deployed, used and supervised so as to respond fully to the health needs and demands of the population concerned. It thus becomes all the more important for WHO to devote the greater part of its energies and its financial resources towards building up the basic health services."

"Maternal and Child Health forms a vital part of the basic health services. In view of progressive changes in the organizational aspects of Maternal and Child Health services—first, expansion from the urban to rural areas, then integration into general health services and, more recently, the inclusion of human re-production, family planning and population dynamics in the programme—the subject of Maternal and Child health is now presented in the wider context of family health."

In its 25 years of existence WHO had achieved commendable success in its efforts to secure health for the people of the world. Its help and guidance to all nations and specially the developing countries stood as a landmark in the establishment of international integration, co-ordination and co-operation. It was heartening that WHO was not working alone in its attempts to wage war against disease, but was cooperating with Governments and the various International Agencies involved in similar efforts. It was hoped that co-operation in the activities of WHO in advising on matters of Public Health, Education, Training and Research as well as formulation of policies on major health matters to serve as guidelines for the members of the profession would be maintained and increased.

The International Council of Nurses look forward to continued co-operation, deeper involvement and active participation in WHO's programme.