

THE NURSING ADVISORY BOARD OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES.

(*From the Nursing Supplement.*)

The first meeting of the Nursing Advisory Board was held April 23rd to 28th, prior to the General Council Meeting, and was attended by the following nurses :—

Finland.—Baroness Mannerheim (Chairman), President of the International Council of Nurses.

Gl. Britain.—Miss Lloyd Still, Matron-in-Chief, St. Thomas' Hospital, London.

United States.—Miss Elizabeth Fox, Director of Public Health Nursing Services, American Red Cross.

Belgium.—Mlle. Borginon (replacing the Countess d'Ursel, who was unable to be present).

France.—Mlle. Flourens, French Red Cross.

Scandinavia.—Miss Charlotte Munck, President of the Scandinavian Nurses' Union.

Secretary, Miss Olmsted.

In addition to the above members of the Board the following nurse experts attended the sessions in an advisory capacity :—

Miss Coode (England), Miss Dyke (Canada), Miss Walker (Association d'Hygiène Sociale de l'Aisne), Mrs. Carter (League of Red Cross Societies).

The present and past policies, problems and activities of the Nursing Division were discussed at length during the sessions and the following recommendations were drawn up and submitted, through the Board of Governors, to the General Council, and were passed without alteration or modification.

Recognizing the educational and economic value of the trained nurse to the nation's welfare and the need for adequate nursing facilities in time of war, disaster and epidemic, the Nursing Advisory Committee realising that one of the purposes of the National Red Cross Societies is "the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering," pleads that National Red Cross Societies devote themselves to the development and advancement of nursing resources in their several countries, and recommends :—

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That the promotion and development of public health nursing should form a vital part of the programme of National Red Cross Societies in countries in which National Red Cross Societies are engaged in health activities and in countries in which the Government, public and private organizations look to the Society for assistance in their health work.

2. That National Red Cross Societies should endeavour earnestly, in their respective countries, to promote in the minds of the public the national importance of the nurse ; to work for the advancement of nursing education ; to encourage educated women to enter schools of nursing and to improve the social and economic status of the nurse.

3. That National Red Cross Societies should endeavour to stimulate the development of schools of nursing of the highest order in their respective countries as much as possible in accordance with a plan and curriculum subsequently to be drawn up by the Nursing Advisory Board of the League, provided that institutions of this character do not already exist.

4. That National Red Cross Societies should recognize the value of nursing organizations and should work with them to promote their ideals for the best interest of the countries' welfare.

5. That National Red Cross Societies should enrol, in a nursing reserve, all qualified nurses in the country who would be in a position to respond to the call of their country in time of war, disaster or epidemic.

6. That while recommending to the National Red Cross Societies the standardization of nurses to be enrolled or trained by the Red Cross Society in the future, we also gratefully recognize the valuable services rendered to their countries, in the past, by those nurses who have received less training, and recommend that they still hold the privilege and title of "Red Cross Nurse," but that from now onwards all new groups trained by Red Cross Societies in short courses for emergency purposes should be designated "Voluntary Aid Detachments" or a similar term and should serve under the enrolled Red Cross nurses.

7. In order that the Government and the public of each country may be assured that the National Red Cross Society will provide adequate and efficient nursing service, when called upon, and in order to facilitate international co-operation during war or disaster, that National Red Cross Societies should, hereafter, designate as Red Cross nurses, only those who have graduated from schools of nursing (schools accepting women of higher education) and giving not less than two years of consecutive and full-time training, the ideal being a 3 years' course in connection with a hospital or hospitals providing medical, surgical and special services.

8. That National Red Cross Societies should appoint an Advisory Nursing Committee consisting of representative nurses and representatives of the medical profession, the Health, Educational and Hospital authorities and others with a knowledge of nursing, to study the need for nursing service, to determine the nursing activities to be undertaken by the National Red Cross Society and to guide its development.

9. That during the ensuing two years the League should continue the International Course in Public Health Nursing and should develop an International course for the Training of Nurse Administrators and Teachers of Schools of Nurses.

10. That the Nursing Division of the League should be put in a position to advise and assist National Red Cross Societies in the development of their nursing activities.

In addition to these general resolutions the Nursing Advisory Board drew up the following more detailed recommendations for the Director General's consideration:

- i. Suggestions of methods by which the League could assist Red Cross Societies to carry out the recommendations passed by the General Council:
 - (a) By preparing a questionnaire to be sent out by National Red Cross Nursing committees to obtain information regarding the health needs of the country and the nursing resources and facilities for meeting these needs.
 - (b) By providing information concerning the organization and conduct of nursing activities and the training of nurses.
 - (c) By considering, with the National Red Cross Nursing Committees, the result of the survey made by means of the questionnaire, in order to determine what activities the National Red Cross should take up.
 - (d) By helping National Red Cross Societies to work out a plan for securing nursing personnel.
 - (e) By guiding the National Red Cross Nursing Committees in the development and supervision of its nursing service.
2. The Board approves of the League calling meetings of National Red Cross Societies, Nursing Committees and Red Cross nurses for the discussion of their nursing problems, when such meetings are desired by the societies. Nursing associations, nurses and other persons interested in nursing may be invited to attend such meetings.
3. That where any Division of the League plans an undertaking which involves nursing service or nursing personnel, the Nursing Division must be consulted; and where a National Red Cross Society projects an undertaking involving nursing service there should be consultation with the Nursing Advisory Committee of the Society.
4. There being in existence two international bodies interested in nursing, namely the International Council of Nurses, engaged in maintaining nursing standards and advancing the interests of the nursing profession, and the League of Red Cross Societies engaged in developing nursing services with especial reference to public health, epidemic and disaster, it is the opinion of the Board that these two organizations, having in their work the same ideals, should organize their headquarters in close proximity and that each should use the resources of the other.
5. The Board views with appreciation the work achieved by the Nursing Division in various countries in connection with societies and relief funds, such as the Commonwealth Fund, the Near East Relief, the American Joint Distribution Society, the Serbian Commission and the Rockefeller Foundation, and, until some professional organization can relieve it of this work, the Board trusts the League will continue this valuable advisory service.
6. The Board recommends that the League collect lists of books on nursing subjects which should be distributed, with suggestions as to which would be most suitable for leading manuals in the different countries, and that, after

due trial of the methods advocated in the suggested books, the different countries should prepare suitable text books for their own use, written by nurses, and that, at the request of national Red Cross Societies, financial assistance might be provided by the League for the expenses of production.

7. The Board recommends that bibliographies of new nursing publications be circulated in the Nursing Supplement, and that the members of the Nursing Advisory Board review new nursing books published in their respective countries, and send them to the Nursing Division of the League for circulation.

8. The Board recommends that the League develop a loan library of nursing literature.

9. The Board recommends that the Nursing Division of the League continue to collect and distribute information, but if this information relate to professional nursing organizations the Director of the Nursing Division should send it for confirmation to the Secretary of the International Council of Nurses before circulating it; that the League should not encourage the formation of new national professional organizations which could not be affiliated with the International Council of Nurses, but if thought advisable in a country where the nursing organization was new, the formation of an advisory council of prominent lay people and representatives of organizations interested in the development of nursing might be encouraged.

10. The Board advocates that the National Red Cross Societies in countries in which there are no well-established courses in public health nursing, help to provide organizers and teachers in Public Health Nursing, by sending women of ability with qualities of leadership and with the best training in nursing their country gives to obtain an education in public health nursing, which is provided by the International Course in Public Health Nursing. The Board further recommends:

- (a) That when it becomes possible, the classes in public health nursing be developed into a regular course of lectures and demonstrations given the same prominence as the lecture courses at Bedford College and that this course be given by a public health nurse with the assistance of public health nurse specialists in the presentation of the special fields they represent.
- (b) That an effort be made to secure more practice in family health work in the home, in which the students may participate.
- (c) That, when advisable, some of the superintendents of agencies furnishing field work for the students be organized into an advisory committee on field work.
- (d) That the League endeavour to secure funds to purchase and furnish a home to become an educational centre for international students.

11. The Board recommends that, at the present time, the Nursing Division of the League take no further action with regard to the development of an employment bureau.

12. The Board approves of the Nursing Supplement in its present form but recommends that articles of a more instructive nature be added, from time to time.

13. The Board recommends that the preparation of nursing exhibits be continued by the Nursing Division and, if possible, increased for the purpose of loaning the material to nurses and Red Cross Societies of various countries.

14. The Board considers the preparation and compilation of pamphlets on various nursing subjects an essential part of the work of the Nursing Division and of great value to member, Red Cross Societies, and recommends that the further development of this activity be facilitated.

15. The Board recommends that, in order to promote co-operation, members of the Nursing Division visit different countries from time to time to gather information and give assistance and advice, and that nurse visitors be invited to the League Headquarters for consultation and advice.

16. The Board approves of the League continuing to award scholarships for the International Courses to supplement the contributions of those countries unable to meet the whole expense.

17. The Board recommends, in view of the diversity and volume of the demands upon the Nursing Division and the very inadequate staff available for rendering even the most essential services required by National Red Cross Societies, that the staff of the Division be increased by the addition of two nurse members, experts in hospital administration and nursing education, public health nursing and research and publication work.

18. The Board recommends that a plan for a nurses' training school in connection with a hospital of 100 beds be drawn up by the Nursing Division in consultation with the experts on nursing education of the Nursing Advisory Board and other experts in this field.

19. The Board expresses appreciation of the League's action in turning to professional nurses and calling upon them for advice, a courtesy which is deeply appreciated and which, it is hoped, will lead to greater unity and mutual support.

Six commissions were appointed to discuss the policies of the different departments of the League and to draw up recommendations for future activities for consideration at the plenary sessions of the General Council. The sixth or Nursing Commission consisted of thirteen members representing eleven different countries.

As most of the "spade" work had already been done by the Nursing Advisory Board, very little discussion took place: the resolutions prepared by the Board were all approved and some interesting accounts of the nursing activities in different countries were read by various members of the commission.

A nurse member was appointed on each of the commissions which dealt with—

Organization of Red Cross Societies—(Miss Lloyd Still).

Disaster and Relief—(Miss Evelyn Walker).

Junior Red Cross—(Miss Fox).

Health—(Miss Dyke).

The advice, support and encouragement which the Nursing Advisory Board has already given to the Nursing Division of the League is very great and the scope of its future activities is almost inestimable. We feel that greater unity and mutual help is now ensured and expert advice on all nursing problems is readily available at all times.

Our readers will be interested to learn that great appreciation of the International courses was expressed on all sides and that a considerable sum of money was voted by the Red Cross Societies of Czecho-Slovakia, the United States of America, Great Britain and the Netherlands to provide and furnish a hostel for the International students in London.

THE CAMA AND ALLBLESS HOSPITALS, BOMBAY.

The Cama Hospital was the first fruit of the Medical Women for India Fund of Bombay and has the distinction of being the first Government Hospital in India to be staffed by medical women, though it was some time before the Government would give way on this point. In 1883, Mr. Pestonjee Hormasjee Cama offered a lac of rupees to be expended in building a hospital for women and children of all nationalities in Bombay. The site of the hospital was to be given and the expenses of maintenance to be borne by Government, and the hospital to be placed under the charge of women doctors. The sum of one lac of rupees was afterwards increased to Rs. 1,64,300. Government accepted this offer but would not agree to the stipulation that the hospital should be handed over entirely to the care of medical women. They however "agreed willingly to utilize the services of competent medical women acting under the instruction and guidance of the male superior staff." As Mr. Cama himself and others interested in the scheme felt strongly that the whole success of the hospital depended on its being staffed by women the subject was further discussed with the Government of Bombay and the India Office and the final stipulation that Government would agree to was "That the Institution shall be handed over entirely to the care of women doctors, so soon as a competent staff of such doctors shall be available for its sole management, and funds are provided to pay the salaries of such staff." With such encouragement the services of Drs. Edith Pechey and Charlotte Ellerby were engaged. Dr. Pechey arrived in Bombay in December 1883, and such was the success of the work that three years later Government took over the hospital and the medical women and paid back to the Fund the money expended on their salaries from the time of their taking over charge of the hospital.

The Cama Hospital was opened in 1886 and four years later the Allbless Hospital was opened, the building having been presented by Mr. Bomonjee Eduljee Allbless. Last year, 1923, a new block was opened containing 18 beds for sick maternity cases and a beautiful roof ward of 14 beds for cases of tubercular joints, etc. This block has been very busy ever since.