

International Conference of Nurses Montreal, July, 1929

At the Nurses' Club, Auckland, on the evening of October 2nd, a meeting was held to receive reports from the delegates to the International Council of Nurses.

The official delegate from the New Zealand Trained Nurses' Association, Miss McKenny, was welcomed by the President, Mrs. Tracy Inglis. She then proceeded to give the following interesting account of her experiences.

This is a brief account of the International Conference of Nurses, which opened at Montreal on July 7th, 1929, also the International Hospitals' Congress, held at Atlantic City in June.

The magnitude of the task of conveying to your Association some idea of the work accomplished at these Conventions—their scope and value—seems at this moment overwhelming.

The Canadian Nurses' Association began their preparations for this Congress two years ago—the more immediate intensive preparation six months previously. Representative delegates prepared topics for discussion many months before.

The Government of the Dominion of Canada—the Provincial Government—the City of Montreal, all gave official and financial support to the Canadian Nurses' Association in their colossal task. The number of nurses who registered attendance was approximately 7,000—many did not register.

A full report of proceedings—official—is undergoing preparation. A copy of this will reach you later.

In the meantime, I offer you a summarising of some of the conclusions arrived at by Committees and Grand Council of I.C.N. I have obtained copies of a number of speeches by outstanding authorities, which will be available later.

I have with me a copy of the I.C.N. programme and the Social Service Curriculum used at McGill University.

Any further information I may have, which is not referred to, I will gladly place at your disposal for your Association.

At Ottawa, on July 3, Canada welcomed delegates to the Congress of the International Council of Nurses, which opened in Montreal the following week. In the beautiful lobby of the Parliament Buildings, Premier MacKenzie King, speaking for the Government of the Dominion, gave to some two hundred delegates headed by Miss Nina D. Gage, President of the Council, a "very, very hearty welcome." Mr. King informed the delegates that he felt the Council had paid Canada and Ottawa a great compliment in choosing the Dominion for their meeting.

It was most appropriate, the Prime Minister said, that the first meeting of the Congress should be within the walls of Parliament. Here, the representatives of the people were endeavouring to legislate for the benefit and welfare of the country. Nursing was peculiarly designed for the benefit and welfare of humanity. Consequently the setting was an appropriate one.

NURSES' MEMORIAL IN HALL OF FAME.

The Prime Minister pointed out, among other things, that the first memorial to be placed in the Hall of Fame had been erected by the nurses in Canada in remembrance of their sisters who gave their lives in the Great War.

Members of the N.Z.T.N.A. are greatly indebted to Miss Bicknell, who arranged for a wreath of flowers from New Zealand nurses to be added to those placed at the Memorial in remembrance of Canadian nurses. Many expressions of thanks for this tribute were received by your delegates.