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Alicia Lloyd Still, ICN President 1933-1937

Work of ICN's Committees

Outlining and developing curriculum content remained an active part of the Education Committee work following the publication of the pamphlet *Report of the Committee on Education of the International Council of Nurses*. Between 1933 and 1939 the Committee received many enquiries about post-graduate or post-basis education and a study was undertaken that identified the construction of curriculum as being the main area of concern. Other areas identified in the study were teaching and administration in schools and hospitals; public health nursing; clinical nursing specialities and technical specialities. In order to broaden its scope, the Committee was enlarged to include representatives from the League of Red Cross Societies and the Florence Nightingale International Foundation and members of other ICN committee as needed. Revised changes were made to the pamphlet *The Basic Education of the Professional Nurse* in order to make a clearer distinction between basic and post-basic or post-graduate nursing education.

For the ICN Membership Committee, increasing membership remained a priority. Florence Emory, Chairman of the ICN Membership Committee (1933-53), outlined her work at ICN, which comprised at that time of 29 associations in active membership with an additional ten having obtained associate status. During the years of her chairmanship the objectives of the committee remained as outlined in the *Constitution* and *By-laws*, namely to make recommendations regarding the eligibility of nursing associations applying for membership.

Three categories of membership were now in place: active, associate and inactive, mainly due to the difficulties nursing organisations had in maintaining membership during the war years. The Committee, in an effort to increase membership during this period, had difficulties in communicating with field staff due to financial and logistical limitations. The professional status of nurses varied by country with some more advanced than others.

**Florence Nightingale International Foundation (FNIF)**

In 1931, Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the British Red Cross Society, asked Gordon Fenwick to meet to consider closer collaboration between the League of Red Cross Society (LORCS) and ICN. The aim was to determine how LORCS courses being run in Bedford College in London may be adopted as the International Memorial to Florence Nightingale.

The draft scheme for the Foundation was submitted to the ICN Board of Directors in July 1933 and was adopted, subject to the following resolution:-

"That the existing Florence Nightingale Committee of the International Council of Nurses should be asked to make a study of the matters involved, and set up a comprehensive educational programme, which will include research on nursing, for a Memorial and that the study cover the following points: direction, organisation, curricula, finance, etc."

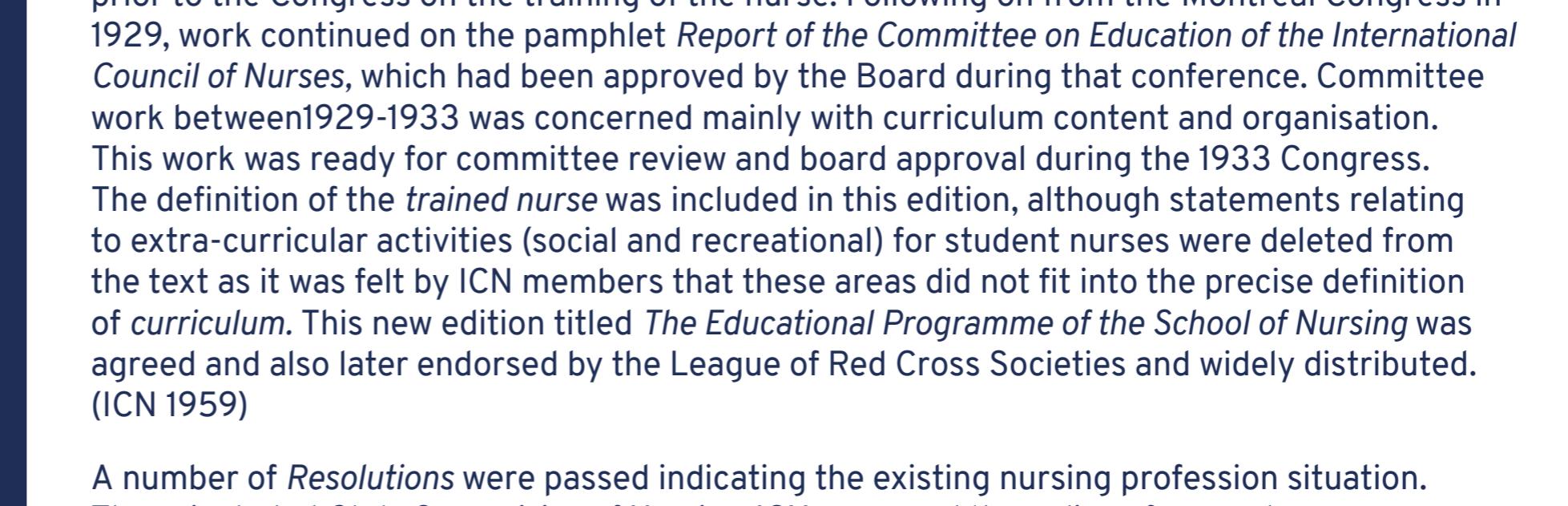
On the acceptance of this resolution, ICN unanimously consented to the establishment of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation (FNIF).

In 1933, the National Florence Nightingale Committees were formed through co-operation between the national nurses associations in membership with ICN and the National Red Cross Societies with equal representation of both bodies on all FNIF headquarters and national committees. In 1934, the inauguration of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation (FNIF) took place on 5 July in London. A telegraph from Queen Mary, signed MARY R. was received:

"I am interested to learn that the International Memorial to Florence Nightingale is being inaugurated today, and I am glad to know it is to take an educational form, as this would undoubtedly have commended itself to Nightingale, who had so much at heart the education of nurses, and the training of a great nursing service, not only in this country but throughout the world. I extend a warm welcome to all delegates from foreign lands and from the British Overseas Dominions who have assembled in London for the inauguration of the Memorial. I shall follow the progress of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation with interest, and I send to one and all concerned my cordial good wishes."

Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, then Matron of St. Thomas's Hospital and superintendent of the Nightingale Training School, was elected the first President of the National Florence Nightingale Committees.

Kilby (1963) Inauguration of Florence Nightingale International Foundation Telegraph from Queen Mary, signed MARY R. Read by the Chairman: in (Kilby M. (1963) The Story of Florence Nightingale International Foundation. Part I: Devising an International Memorial. Reprinted from International Nursing Review, November-December 10(6) 28 ICN Archives



Léonie Chaptal, ICN President, with Queen Astrid of Belgium and Ethel Bedford Fenwick

Seventh ICN Congress, Paris, France, and Brussels, Belgium

The seventh ICN Congress was held jointly in the two cities of Paris and Brussels in July 1933. Alicia Lloyd Still (Great Britain) was elected ICN President at this time, with the Watchword "Loyalty".

Education and training remained central to delegate discussions, including the definition of the *trained nurse*. A large amount of work had been undertaken by the Education Committee prior to the Congress on the training of the nurse. Following on from the Montreal Congress in 1929, work continued on the pamphlet *Report of the Committee on Education of the International Council of Nurses*, which had been approved by the Board during that conference. Committee work between 1929-1933 was concerned mainly with curriculum content and organisation.

This work was ready for committee review and board approval during the 1933 Congress. The definition of the *trained nurse* was included in this edition, although statements relating to extra-curricular activities (social and recreational) for student nurses were deleted from the text as it was felt by ICN members that these areas did not fit into the precise definition of *curriculum*. This new edition titled *The Educational Programme of the School of Nursing* was agreed and also later endorsed by the League of Red Cross Societies and widely distributed. (ICN 1959)

A number of *Resolutions* were passed indicating the existing nursing profession situation. These included *State Supervision of Nursing*. ICN approved the policy of compulsory registration and the need for the medical and nursing professions and governments of this requirement. If this had already taken place, nurses should be state registered and a Ministry of Health established in the country. ICN further approved the principle of inspection of schools of nursing and the working and living conditions of student nurses by qualified graduate, registered nurses.

Resolutions passed pertaining to the *Legal Aspects of Professional Conduct* included that the nurses' responsibility in relation to that of the physician be laid down; special courses on the legal aspects of professional nursing should be provided throughout training; reference material should be published; and special jurisprudence would determine the legal responsibility of the nurses. Resolutions passed in relation to supply and demand included that ICN inform its national member associations that too many students were being trained relative to the number of positions available in some countries, and that ICN would undertake a study on the question of supply and demand; that Aptitude Tests for entry to the profession, such tests now in its infancy, should be studied; and that all fee-paying employment agencies for nurses should be conducted by professional organisations and not by commercial agencies. Concerning the increased interest by the public in nursing, resolutions recognised the importance of publicity in regard to nursing and nursing education. Further resolutions recommended that mental health and hygiene principles should be incorporated into curricula. (ICN 1933)

ICN (1959). The Educational Programme of the School of Nursing. *International Nursing Review* 14:16

ICN (1933) Resolution on Mental Health and Hygiene Principles Incorporated into Curricula. ICN 11 Quadrennial Congress, Paris, France, and Brussels, Belgium. *The International Nursing Review* Vol VIII (1-4):127-130.





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Work of ICN's Committees (see story for background)

ICN currently has two types of membership:

A national nursing association (NNA) under the **traditional** membership model is the most representative generalist nursing organisation in the country. In the case where this association represents less than 6% of the nurses in the country, additional associations from that country may also join as full ICN members. The majority of our members have this type of membership.

In some cases, two or more national nursing groups in a country may band together to form a new organisation for international purposes. This is the **alliance** model and is considered the full member of ICN. The *Joint Virtual Swedish Nurse Organisation for International Work* is an example.

Florence Nightingale International Foundation (FNIF) (see story for background)

The **Florence Nightingale International Foundation (FNIF)** continues to be ICN's premier foundation. It supports and complements the work and objectives of ICN. Its purpose is to support the advancement of nursing education, research and services for the public good.

Seventh ICN Congress, Paris, France, and Brussels, Belgium, 1933 (see story for background)

ICN remains concerned with the issue of supply and demand today. In 2019, ICN's International Workforce Forum issued a communiqué demanding urgent action from governments to address the shortfall of 18 million healthcare professionals worldwide by 2030, 50% of whom will be nurses.

At the 72nd World Health Assembly in 2019, ICN intervened on the topic of Human Resources for Health, calling for countries to invest in a self-sustainable national nursing workforce, producing a stable core of domestically educated nurses, while enabling the contribution of international nurses.

ICN is the co-Chair of the Steering Committee of the WHO's State of the World's Nursing Report, to be released in 2020, which will provide a global picture of the nursing workforce, inform national policy dialogue, accelerate progress across the SDGs, and unlock investment in nursing the health workforce and the gender equity agenda.



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Inauguration of Florence Nightingale International Foundation



The first step towards the formation of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation took place in 1912 when Ethel Bedford Fenwick put forward the idea of establishing an educational memorial to Florence Nightingale. This proposal was approved by ICN. This decision proved to be momentous for the nursing education and clinical practice through a Foundation that was subsequently formed to support scholarship.

Step two occurred in 1931 when Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the British Red Cross Society, and Bedford Fenwick agreed to a closer collaboration between the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (LORCS) and ICN in order to make LORCS courses as the International Memorial to Florence Nightingale.

In 1933, ICN unanimously agreed to the establishment of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation (FNIF). Its purpose was to be a living memorial to Florence Nightingale and its objective: to improve nursing through stimulating improvements in nursing education by working with the national nurses' associations in the countries with whom ICN is actively associated and with any groups of nurses in countries that have not yet formed a national nurses association.

Seventh ICN Congress, Paris and Brussels



– Alicia Lloyd Still, ICN President, 1933-1937



ICN Congress front row from left: Leonie Chaptal, Ethel Gordon Fenwick and the Queen of Belgium.

Here at the seventh Congress, we are discussing education and training. We're proud of the large amount of work undertaken by the Education Committee prior to the Congress, particularly on curriculum content and organisation. Our Board and our members have agreed on the new Educational Programme of the School of Nursing and we approved the principle of inspection of schools of nursing – and the working and living conditions of student nurses – by qualified graduate, registered nurses.

We've also passed a number of resolutions on the Legal Aspects of Professional Conduct including nurses' responsibility in relation to that of the physician; special courses on the legal aspects of professional nursing throughout training; and special jurisprudence to determine the legal responsibility of nurses.

Resolutions have also been passed on supply and demand as, in some countries, we have seen too many students being trained relative to the number of positions available. The ICN has committed to undertaking a study on the question of supply and demand. And we have recognised the importance of publicity in regard to nursing and nursing education. Further Resolutions recommended that mental health and hygiene principles should be incorporated into curricula. What a lot we have achieved for the profession!



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London ICN Congress. International Group: Mlle J. de Joannis, Bella Alexander, Anna Schwarzenberg, Bertha Helgestad . Seated l-r Dame Ellen Musson, Ethel Gordon Fenwick, Effie Taylor.

Eighth ICN Congress, London United Kingdom

In 1937, ICN headquarters were returned from Geneva to London, where the eighth ICN International Congress took place. Retiring ICN President, Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, in welcoming the new President, American Effie Taylor, spoke inspiringly saying:

“Nurses of the United States, like those of our Allies, worked unstintingly in the service of their country during the war in providing care for the disabled. They shared the hardships of combat, asking no reward except the knowledge that their sacrifices enabled others to live.... Shattered bodies and minds lie in the wake of the most destructive war in history. The sick must be nursed back to health.” (ICN 1959)

The office of Third Vice-President was created; the President took on the Watchword “Faith”.

ICN (1959). The Educational Programme of the School of Nursing. *International; Nursing Review* 14-16 ICN Archives





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Eight ICN Congress, London United Kingdom (see story for background)

The ICN Board of Directors is currently comprised of the President, three Vice Presidents and 10 members elected on the basis of ICN voting areas. All members must meet the ICN definition of a nurse and be in good standing in an ICN member association. The Board serves as the agent of the Council of National Nursing Association Representatives (CNR) and established and carries out policy consistent with the framework established by CNR.





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Effie Taylor, ICN President, and Mrs Gordon Salmon, during the transfer of ICN offices to Yale University

War Again!

In July 1939, war was looming during the meetings of the Grand Council of ICN, in London, and the presentation of certificates to the 1938-39 International Group at Bedford College. The editorial of the Nursing Times of 1939 quoted ICN's Vice President, Bella Alexander:

"It is the duty of every woman to work for peace and above all to pray for peace especially nurses, who can exert a profound influence on those whom they come into contact." (Kilby M 1963)

Many of ICN's projects were stalled in 1939 when World War II broke out. The consequence for ICN and its own displacement during the war years were significant. Its London office proved to be in a vulnerable position when war broke out resulting in the office being moved to Connecticut, USA. Further meetings were postponed and the London office was subsequently bombed in 1941. Bank accounts could not be accessed leading to little or no contact during the war years.

Kilby M. (1963) The Story of Florence Nightingale International Foundation. Part 1: Devising an International Memorial.
Reprinted from *International Nursing Review*, November-December 10(6) 25-31.





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Another War Begins

– Bella Alexander, ICN Vice President



It is the duty of every woman to work for peace and above all to pray for peace – especially nurses, who can exert a profound influence on those with whom they come into contact. We hope to see politicians of all countries come and live in International House and Bedford College so that they might also learn to see each other's problems and points of view and recognise the common humanity of every race. This would be the quickest means of establishing peace.

With the outbreak of World War Two, we have had to move the ICN office to Connecticut – just in time, as the ICN office in London was bombed in 1941. We have faith in the nursing profession and will work to re-establish contact once this terrible war is over.

