nor that of the gynaecologist it is obviously the family doctor to whom she ought most readily be able to turn for advice. This book could certainly provide him with a timely and useful refresher course.

G. I. M. SWYER.

International Council of Nurses

On 1 July 1899, at the annual conference of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick proposed "that steps be taken to organize an International Council of Nurses." The resolution was carried and a provisional committee appointed, which at its meeting the next day authorized the English members to draw up a constitution and circulate it to interested parties. A year later the constitution was adopted. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick elected the first president, and Miss Lavinia Dock was secretary. Between 1901 and 1912 congresses were held at Buffalo, Berlin, Paris, London, and Cologne, but we are told that "it was inevitable that with no established office or secretary, and with the president and honorary secretary divided by the Atlantic Ocean, very little work could be undertaken between meetings."

The intervention of the war of 1914-18 made matters more difficult, but in 1922 changes were made, a full-time secretary was appointed, and an office established in Geneva. The new secretary, Miss Christiane Reimann, was a very capable hard-working officer who visited many European countries and greatly advanced the membership and influence of the council during her 12 years of office. She was succeeded by Miss Anna Schwarzenberg, whose ability to speak seven languages was of great assistance. The war of 1939-45 made it necessary to move the headquarters from London and then to New York. After peace was declared the office was again established in London, and the secretariat was increased and reorganized, so that when Miss Bridges was chosen as chief executive officer in 1948 she was able to do much more field work in different parts of the world, thus increasing the usefulness and influence of the International Council. Between 1948 and 1961 a conference was held at Stockholm and congresses in Petropolis (Brazil), Rome, and Melbourne, and membership of the I.C.N. was increased by the addition of over 30 countries. The present headquarters is again in Geneva, and the executive director is Miss Helen Nussbaum. At the congress held at Frankfurt in 1965 there was an assembly of 6,000 nurses from 63 countries—good evidence of a thriving organization.

The story is well told in a pleasing style, controversial points are gently dealt with, and credit given where credit is due. The illustrations are very good and tell a story of their own. The book should appeal to all nurses and to those medical practitioners who wish to keep themselves well informed about the achievements of a sister profession.

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