FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

THE WAR

The curtain has rung down on international correspondence, so far as Europe is concerned, and by the time this line is printed the hideous conflagration may have spread even further. For the present the work of international nursing organization is interrupted. Nothing is heard now but the arrangements for sending nurses to the scene of war. For one (perhaps the only one), the writer at least is no longer able to regard war and army nursing with any feeling save that of sick horror and aversion, as being a part of a vast and hideous stupidity which a civilized nation should cast from it for ever. Does it not seem that the very work of the Red Cross itself is a tacit giving of a moral support to war which every human being should refuse to give? Does it not make war more tolerable, more possible and, by mitigating, keep it bolstered up and alive, just as organized charity helps to bolster up poverty and keep it from appearing as the needless, preventable, useless survival that it is? War and poverty are twin monsters with their roots in the same foul soil, the despotic belief that individual and country can only find prosperity by crushing some other individual or country; the spirit against which it is time for women to oppose a moral resistance that shall finally break down the savage in man.

Meantime, in England, while nurses are conspicuously to the front for the relief of misery, even while accepting all their services certain men are tirelessly carrying on the old, petty, ignoble warfare on the nursing profession by watching that no advantage be gained for that status they are asking through state recognition. The last *British Journal of Nursing* records two exceptionally base pieces of tactics of this order; fortunately, while that journal stands, not one such under-hand attempt will ever get through in safe silence.

One of these is positively funny in its simple frankness—the Selection Committee of St. George' Hospital exacts a promise from its new matron not to take a part in political or social propaganda while in service of the hospital. This means the state registration movement. A simple and effective method of preventing free speech and action!

So far China seems to be the only country unclouded by the war, and a letter from the officers of the Nurses' Association of China, promis-

ing to enter the International Council at San Francisco, is the only cheering letter that has come our way since the war began. It came, however, just before that time. The Association had its annual meeting in Shanghai in early July. The new president is Miss Hope Bell of the London Mission Hospital in Hankow and Elsie Chung is vice-president. As we have said, she will come to San Francisco as one of the delegates. We shall hope to have the full number; China surely is not far away from California. The former president, who brought forward the international proposition, was Nina D. Gage, a graduate of Roosevelt Hospital.

THE INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL

Last month, when the account of the International Memorial to Miss Nightingale was written, a copy of it was at once sent to England to Miss Rundle, asking her to make any denial or contradiction from her point of view. Ordinarily, a reply could have come before the last JOURNAL proofs went to press. But, with the outbreak of war, mails were delayed, and the reply did not come in time.

Miss Rundle says she did not procure the material from Teachers' College for St. Thomas' Hospital, but that they were referred by the College to her after they had obtained it. This is, of course, quite outside the criticism made in the last JOURNAL. That criticism was that, while Miss Rundle's right to advise any group of people on any subject is unquestioned, her attitude of *confidential* adviser in this instance is open to question.

However, this barbaric war will doubtless throw all these other activities into the shade.

ITEMS

The Trained Nurses' Association of India has had a severe loss in the death of Miss Tindall, who was for several years the president of the Association, and always a most devoted, unselfish, and able worker. The nurses of India feel bereft and lost, and all their fellow members in the affiliated countries sympathize sincerely with them.

The two dominant nursing associations of Australia are perfecting their arrangements for affiliation under one central executive committee for the purpose of entering the International Council: a most welcome and applauded step and one for which we have long wished and waited.