REPORT OF FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
NURSE ANESTHETISTS

HELD IN CLEVELAND, OHIO

SEPTEMBER 29th and 30th and OCTOBER 1st, 1936
in conjunction with the

AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

AGATHA C. HODGINS, Honorary President

National Association of Nurse Anesthetists

A fortunate choice made Cleveland, in this its gala centennial year, the place of your convention meeting. Perhaps never in its history has the city been the center of such wide interests, such diversified important gatherings. The very air is charged with the thrill of continuing excitement; its streets, resplendent with color, are filled with happy, interested visitors.

In the present momentous political situation Cleveland has played an important part, being host first to the great Republican Convention and later to other and different political groups. In fact, a prominent eastern newspaper commented in an editorial that “Cleveland in 1936 has been a political habit.”

To this atmosphere, brimming with interest, the American Legion, with its colorful pageantry, lent further life and gayety.

As a diverting accompaniment to these important activities, we have the “Great Lakes Exposition,” an unique show place which, set amid surroundings of beauty and depicting with significance and charm the cultural life of all nationalities, affords relaxation, interest and amusement to visitors; the most distinguished of whom was the President of the United States.

It is fitting then that the culmination of this red-letter summer should be the conventions of different branches of a great profession—a profession whose concern is the conservation and perpetuation of that most priceless of all human possessions—health; without which neither the symbolized wisdom of the first group, the courage of the second nor the diversified useful and artistic pursuits of the composite third would be possible.

While Moses Cleaveland, as a perfect host, gives equal warmth of greeting to all, he has for your group an especial welcome and in your achievements a particular pride. An especial welcome because your members typify the pioneer spirit in opening up, under often discouraging and
difficult circumstances, a new field of work for women—a particular pride because this adventure took tangible, permanent form, here in Cleveland, as the “National Association of Nurse Anesthetists.”

To the convention of this Association we now extend a cordial welcome from the city of Cleveland, and also happily renew the friendly greetings, already given, from the University Hospitals where your organization meeting was held. The Ohio State Association of Nurse Anesthetists are proud and happy to have you as their guests, and together with Headquarters and the Cleveland Committee have exerted every effort to make your visit pleasant and profitable.

Among the speakers on your program are men distinguished in their field—one of whom we are all proud to claim as an old and staunch friend. The different hospitals have arranged interesting clinics for your benefit. The banquet will bring to you, through the speaker of the evening, some of the allure and fascination of another adventure in a primitive land. On the lighter side, the Exposition beckons you for amusement and diversion. The beauty spots of the city for your esthetic enjoyment; a fashion show for the vain—and what woman is not? Interpenetrating these serious and diverting occupations runs the warmth of our welcome to you. We hope that every moment of your time will be filled with pleasantness, and recollection bring you happy memories of this Cleveland Convention.

May you take from this surcharged atmosphere some of its symbolized wisdom, courage, artistry and gaiety, which, re-expressed by you, as you go your different ways, will create an ever-widening circle of friendship for the profession to which you have the honor to belong.

GREETINGS

GEORGE W. CRILE, M.D.
Cleveland, Ohio

It is a very great pleasure for me to be on this platform for a moment and a great responsibility for me to be the only man present, and I am glad indeed to offer a word of greeting, to add to those of Miss Hodgins. In addition I would like to express in a few words what I think is the significance of this movement.

First of all, I would like to state a fact that you probably do not know—one that Miss Hodgins has probably forgotten if she has realized it—and that is how ill adapted an intern anesthetist was, and nearly all surgeons have arrived at this same conclusion. The intern was interested in his career—anesthesia was not his primary interest. But there are other reasons why the intern is not the ideal anesthetist. I do not think a man can ever have the finesse in the administration of an anesthetic that a woman has. Having reached that conclusion, I could see no other way out of the difficulty but to look about and consider all the nurses I knew and to choose from among those one who had the ideal qualities to undertake a great responsibility. The nurse whom I selected had a very interesting personality, which has be-