

trained Superintendent of Nursing should be included in the members of the Commission.

Letters from Mr. Balfour and Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman are before the meeting to-day. The National Council of Nurses' Sub-Committee met and drew up some suggestions in the Draft Constitution which have been submitted to, and considered by, the Executive Committee. They are submitted to-day for the consideration of the Council.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee, held on October 11th, it was decided, in response to a request from Miss Barling, of Kidderminster, to draw up a concise statement setting forth the case for State Registration of Nurses, and a sub-committee has been appointed to deal with the matter. A sub-committee to make financial arrangements for British Delegates to the International Congress of Nurses, and the Nursing Exhibition at Buffalo, 1901, was also appointed.

A resolution was also passed and forwarded to Miss Emmie Lofts offering her the congratulations of her colleagues on her approaching marriage.

The Report was adopted, and the Hon. Secretary was directed to place it on the minutes.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters of regret at inability to attend were reported from Miss Barling (Kidderminster), Miss M. de H. Spittal (Nottingham), Miss Purvis (Middlesbrough), Miss Bradshaw (Dublin), Miss Lucy Smith (Rochdale), Miss Elma Smith (Hendon), Miss Scott (Chesterfield).

Letters were read and discussed from the Secretary of State for War, the Local Government Boards of England, Scotland, and Ireland, the General Medical Council, the Royal College of Physicians of England and Ireland, the Chairman of the London Hospital, the Secretaries of the Middlesex, St. Mary's, and Guy's Hospitals, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Mr. Arthur Balfour, the Comte de Cardi, Miss Barling, Miss L. L. Dock (United States), and Mrs. Frederic Wates.

#### APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Miss Maud Banfield, Superintendent of the Polyclinic Hospital, Philadelphia, and Miss Gertrude Payne, Lady Superintendent of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, were elected members.

#### RESOLUTION.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick asked the indulgence of the President and the meeting, to be allowed to propose an emergency Resolution not placed upon the Agenda. This was granted.

The Resolution was as follows:—

"That in the opinion of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland (an Association of Superintendents of Trained Nurses) the proposal of the Guardians of the Croydon Infirmary to restrict Miss E. E. Julian, the Matron of the Infirmary, who—for the last ten years has acted as the Superintendent of Nursing—to the performance of domestic duties only, in connection with the Infirmary, and to entrust the immediate and preliminary training of the probationer nurses to the Ward Sisters, under the supervision of the Medical Superintendent, is a retrograde step. The

Matrons' Council desires to point out that any such arrangement must result in lack of discipline and inefficiency in the Nursing Department, and in loss of prestige to the nurses trained in the school, who will suffer professional damage if the signature of the Matron does not appear upon their certificates. The Matrons' Council ventures to hope that this regrettable decision of the Croydon Board of Guardians will have the effect of directing the attention of the Local Government Board to the necessity for defining the position of the Matrons of Poor Law Infirmaries, and for their official recognition not only as Matron of the Infirmary but also as Superintendent of the Nurse Training School."

The Resolution was seconded by Miss Ellen Kingsford and carried unanimously, and it was agreed that a copy should be sent to the Local Government Board and to Miss Julian.

#### THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

Miss Isla Stewart, the President, read the following report from the Executive Committee.

At the Executive Committee of the Matrons' Council, held on Thursday, October 18th, at the Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, the Draft Constitution of the National Council of Nurses as amended by the Council at its meeting in July, and later by a meeting of the sub-committee appointed to consider its formation was fully discussed.

The outcome of the discussion was the opinion that it would be well to place an alternative proposal before the next meeting of the Council for its consideration. The difficulty of framing any constitution for a National Council of Nurses in which the Matrons' Council (as representing the Superintendents of this country) would be adequately, without being unduly, represented was felt to be extreme.

The question therefore arose, whether it would not be well to form first an Association of Societies of Certificated Nurses under some such name as "The Associated League of Certificated Nurses," or, "The National League of Certificated Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland," and that this Society, when formed, should affiliate with the Matrons' Council to form the National Council of Nurses.

Each of these Societies would be self governing, and would depute Representatives, in such proportion as might be determined, to represent them on the National Council.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said that much earnest consideration had been given to this question, of the best basis on which to found a National Council of Nurses, and the more it was considered, the more clear it became that the wisest plan would be for the Matrons to maintain the autonomy of their own Society, and that the nurses should form a National Society, of delegates from organised School Leagues, under the title of the National League of Certificated Nurses, reserving to themselves the right to supersede the word certificated for that of registered, when thus distinguished by Act of Parliament, and that the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland should be formed in the near future by the federation of the Matrons and Nurses'

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