

to us all, and it would be impossible to have a more acceptable Hon. Secretary.

Miss Margaret Breay's experience would be invaluable to the Council. No woman in England had one more for the organisation of nursing than Miss Breay—quiet, unobtrusive, untiring work, which was producing great results.

Miss Dock said that, according to the Constitution, a President who retired at the close of a full term of office became an Hon. President with a seat on the Executive Committee and Grand Council for life. She moved that Mrs. Fenwick be accordingly appointed to this position. She moved that the Hon. President receive the grateful thanks of the Council. She moved that Mrs. Fenwick do all the work on this side.

In seconding, Miss Stewart said no one knew what Mrs. Fenwick's work had been as she did. She must own that during the last seventeen years she should many times have fainted by the way if it had not been for her. No one was better qualified to speak on courage than Mrs. Fenwick. She had the courage of conviction, the courage of a fighter, the courage of patience. If Miss Breay had done more than any other woman for nursing organisation in England, Mrs. Fenwick had done more than any other woman in the world.

Miss Huxley said she thought it a very great loss to the Council that Mrs. Fenwick did not continue in office as President. The members knew her, her work, and her courage. Only a few weeks ago she had visited Ireland, and she was recognised by Irish nurses as one who had their true interests at heart. She hoped that five years hence Mrs. Fenwick would again accept office as President.

Mrs. Fenwick said that, to be quite frank, she had the welfare of the Council at heart when the provision that retiring Presidents should become Hon. Presidents with a vote on the Executive Committee and Grand Council for life was incorporated in the Constitution. History had shown that in the early days of organisation complete disruption every five years was injurious. At the same time, it was a great mistake to imagine that only one person was capable of holding a particular office; she objected to the monopoly of office—it was contrary to the principles of Internationalism. In her opinion there should be a fresh President for each Quinquennial Period. In thanking Miss Stewart and Miss Huxley most heartily for their appreciative words, she begged to say that in her capacity of Hon. President she hoped still to put her finger into every International nursing pie.

THE NEXT QUINQUENNIAL PERIOD.

Mrs. Fenwick then said that the Council would be glad to receive suggestions, if anyone present desired to offer them, as to the method of work for the next Quinquennial Period. The last five years had been occupied in quiet organisation work.

In the large majority of countries nurses did not yet understand the principles of Co-operation and Internationalism, and the work of the Council was to educate the graduate in every country in her duty towards her nurse neighbour. The world was a very small place. By international communication we learnt that our own little hospital did not constitute the nursing world, nor even our own League or National Association. Science compelled us to realise that Internationalism was inevitable in the future, that units counted for very little, their relative value in the sphere of creation being infinitesimal.

Miss Mollett said it was important to remember that the International Council was formed of National Councils, which, in their turn, were composed of Associations of Graduate Nurses, or Training-School Leagues. Therefore, all who had the interests of the Council at heart should bend their energies towards stimulating the formation of additional Leagues, so that National Councils might have the whole body of nurses in each country behind them.

Mrs. Fenwick said that at present we had in Great Britain a Provisional Committee, not a fully-organised National Council. This Committee was formed of delegates from seven self-governing Leagues and Societies, and represented about 2,000 nurses, and it was the desire of all those who composed the Committee that others should come in and increase its influence. A National Council would not be formed until 5,000 nurses were represented.

The growth of a National Council in Great Britain would probably be slow, but it would be better to begin with a Provisional Committee representing 2,000 members animated by a progressive spirit than a large Council not inspired by the spirit of unity.

Miss Dock reminded those present of the power of the press, and asked all connected with nursing journals to repeat in them International ideas and principles and to disseminate information as to the objects of the International Council of Nurses.

This concluded the business of the Morning Session, and the meeting then adjourned till two o'clock. The nurses present took luncheon together in a garden near at hand, the arrangements having kindly been made by Fraulein Karl.

LAVINIA L. DOCK, Honorary Secretary.

We shall report the Conference on Legislation and Education in our next issue.

A party of trained nurses, under the leadership of Countess Bavada, who is an American by birth, a native of New Orleans, but who has lived many years in Russia, are on their way to Port Arthur to tender their services to the Russian Red Cross. The six nurses forming the expedition are from New York, Boston, and Pittsburg.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)