

and nominating the following six members for approval as delegates:—Miss E. F. Dwight, Miss M. Nqrman, Miss F. Jenkinson, Miss A. Myers, Miss A. Loveridge, Miss I. Colton.

It was agreed that the application of the League be accepted, and the nominated candidates approved.

It was also unanimously agreed that Miss G. A. Rogers, President of the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League, be appointed Chairman of the Committee, subject to her consent to act. Miss Barton, President of the Chelsea Infirmary Nurses' League, who was present, accepted office as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

It was agreed that the Committee should meet annually in May, and that other meetings should be held at the discretion of the officers when necessary. The subscription of affiliating societies was fixed at 5s. per annum.

Mrs. Fenwick suggested that it would be of great use and interest to form a Library of the History of the International and National Councils of Nurses, and she proposed that all the affiliating Leagues and Societies should donate annually a bound copy of their journals or reports. The reports of the International Council would be found in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, bound copies of which she would present to the Provisional Committee from 1899, when the Council was inaugurated. She hoped all the Leagues would consider this suggestion and donate their journals from the beginning. This suggestion was approved.

The meeting then terminated. M. B.

Nursing in Germany.

The authorities of the municipal hospitals of Berlin and Charlottenburg are introducing several changes designed to make the service more attractive to women of a desirable type. Salaries paid to staff nurses and head nurses are to be increased, and a yearly vacation of from two to four weeks, according to the time of service, established.

Various little details regarding the maintenance of the nurses are to be more liberally planned. The municipal hospital superintendents are desirous of securing women of superior qualifications, and the Superintendent of Charité, who is a layman and not a physician, is not only unusually liberal and enlightened, but what is rather unusual, is not in the least too jealous of his dignity to confer with women who know something of the subject of nursing management. A newly-established rule is, that after the year of instruction (Lehrzeit), a probation year is required (Probekjahr) before the nurse is finally admitted to full membership as "Schwester."

This seems nearly the same as a two-years course. All that is needed is to carry the instruction through the second year. But at present, as a general rule in Germany, the one year (Lehrzeit) seems to be considered sufficient.

Central Midwives' Board.

A meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held at 6, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, on Thursday, November 24th, at 2.45 p.m. There were present Dr. Champneys in the chair, Miss Wilson, Miss Paget, Dr. Ward Cousins, Mr. Parker Young, and, later, Sir William Sinclair, who, on his arrival, was congratulated by the Chairman, in the name of the Board, on his recent honours.

The correspondence before the Board included:—

A letter from Mrs. Heywood Johnstone, thanking the Board for their letter of sympathy passed at the meeting of October 27th.

A letter from Miss Dorothea Oldham resigning her position as a member of the Board representing the Royal British Nurses' Association. The resignation was accepted with regret, and the Secretary was directed to give formal notice of the vacancy to the R.B.N.A.

A letter from Dr. George Rowell, Hon. Secretary of the Metropolitan Counties Branch of the British Medical Association, enclosing the copy of a letter addressed by the Branch to the London County Council, and asking for the co-operation of the Board with the London County Council in obtaining powers from Parliament to pay Registered Medical Practitioners when called in by midwives in emergencies.

It was pointed out by Mr. Parker Young that, on his motion, the Board had in February last approached the Privy Council on this subject. The matter was still before the Privy Council, which was the body to approach rather than the London County Council.

The Board were unanimous in agreeing that provision should be made for the payment of medical practitioners under the circumstances indicated, and were in sympathy with the Metropolitan Counties Branch of the B.M.A. It was agreed that its Hon. Secretary should be informed that the Board had already taken action in regard to the matter by approaching the Privy Council. Fresh legislation, however, would be necessary to effect the desired end.

It was pointed out that a good deal of pressure would be necessary to attain this, and that the British Medical Association could exert considerable influence.

Dr. Ward Cousins said he had brought the matter before the meeting of the British Medical Association at Oxford, and the feeling was extremely strong that something should be done. It was eventually referred to the Medico-Political Committee of the Association.

A letter was also considered from the Clerk of the Monmouthshire County Council, asking the Board's construction of the words "otherwise than under the direction of a qualified medical practitioner," Midwives' Act, Section I., Sub-section (2).

It was explained that the difficulty was that women who practically acted as midwives did not notify their intention to practise to the local supervising authority, because they contended that they were working under the direction of medical practitioners. Nevertheless these practitioners who nominally were responsible for the cases, practically often did not attend.

Mr. Duncan thought that no legal opinion in regard to the point was of use until it had been tested in a court of law.

It was proposed to refer the writer of the letter to the Act.

Miss Wilson thought that when the local authorities were in difficulty as to the interpretation of the Act,

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