

of the General Register of thoroughly trained Nurses and open innumerable portals to the Register, instead of the One Portal it promised its members. The Central Committee's Bill provided for an independent Governing Body, equality of opportunity for all trained nurses, two Supplementary Registers only—one for male and one for mental nurses—and the One Portal, after three years' general training in hospital wards, to the Women Nurses' General Register. The Central Committee intended to oppose privileged legislation calculated to injure the nurses who refused to join the College, and to work energetically for their Bill, designed to benefit the whole Nursing Profession.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Hon. Treasurer (Miss Forrest) presented the Financial Statement, which showed expenditure of £4 7s. 6d., and a Balance in the bank of £22 4s. 11d. The Statement was adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE.

1. A letter was received from Miss Hulme, Hon. Secretary of the Matrons' Council, notifying that Miss Lucy Ramsden, formerly Matron of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, and Miss Bushby, Matron of the Queen's Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, E., had accepted nomination as Delegates on the Council. The nominations were approved.

NATIONAL BABY WEEK COUNCIL.

2. A letter from Miss S. F. Musson, inviting the Council to appoint a representative on the National Baby Week Council, was received. The appointment of the President was confirmed. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said the Council was doing very useful work, especially since the appointment of Miss S. F. Musson as Secretary, and its activities would be increased under a National Health Ministry.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH WATCHING COUNCIL.

3. A letter was received and considered from the Viscountess Rhondda, inviting the Council to send a representative to a Meeting of the Ministry of Health Watching Council, to enlarge its scope to include not only Infant and Maternity Welfare, but women's interests generally; as a Council which could really be said to represent Women's Organizations would carry great weight at the present time, and might be of very great value.

ADVISORY COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

The following resolution would be considered at the Meeting:—

Resolution.

"That the Watching Council adopt as part of its policy to press for an Advisory Council of Women at the Ministry of Health, elected on democratic lines, and in an analogous position to

and with the same rights, privileges, and powers as any other Advisory Council."

A copy of the proposed Constitution was enclosed. It was agreed to send a representative to the Meeting.

The President in this connection reminded the Meeting how important it was that trained nurses should have access to the Ministry of Health, as it was proposed that the medical profession should have. Trained Nurses and Midwives would be called upon to do most of the practical work in connection with such a Ministry, and, if precedent were followed, certainly the most laborious and ill-paid work. But as their trained skill was of paramount importance to all classes in the prevention of and care of disease, they must be alive to the best interests of the community by refusing to agree to any system which forced semi-trained or amateur workers on the sick poor—at salaries far in excess of their value. There would be responsible positions under such a Ministry, and the trained and skilled workers should be appointed to them.

In the past lay women's organizations had shown a lamentable lack of appreciation of the powers and status of the trained nurse. After association for upwards of twenty years with the National Council of Women, the affiliated nurses' societies were still without direct representation on its Executive Committee, so that decisions were arrived at on nursing affairs without expert advice. For the future it was imperative that in all questions referring to legislation and the economic conditions of trained nurses that they should present their own case, and she advocated an Advisory Council of Nurses as admissible in the Ministry of Health Bill.

RESOLUTION.

The following resolution was proposed from the chair, and it was passed unanimously:—

"That this Meeting of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland urges upon the Government the urgent need of an Act for the State Registration of Nurses, providing for an independent General Nursing Council, as an indispensable corollary of the establishment of a Ministry of Health."

QUESTIONS FOR PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES.

4. A communication was received from the Hon. Secretaries, Legislation Committee of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, enclosing the following list of questions, suggesting that some or all might be included among the questions to be addressed to candidates for the Parliamentary Election.

1. Are you in favour of removing the disqualification of women being admitted and practising as solicitors (and as Law Agents in Scotland)?

2. Are you in favour of abolishing the existing practice of penalising married persons by taxing their incomes together?

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