

evident from the replies received that the ignorance of most matrons of General Hospitals on the question was colossal.

#### Report of General Purposes Committee.

All the items on this Report, presented by Miss Cox-DAVIES (Chairman), have already been discussed on the Report of the Finance Committee.

With one Amendment, the Report was adopted.

#### Information on Committee Business supplied to the Press.

MISS ALSOP here asked whether she was in order in asking a question, and receiving an affirmative answer from the Chairman, said she would like to know who supplied information as to Committee business to the Press? Who sent information about letters dealt with only in Committee, for example?

MISS COX-DAVIES said that she had intended to ask the same question.

THE CHAIRMAN, in reply, said that the information referred to appeared in the *Nursing Times*. It could only have been obtained from a member of the Committee concerned (or from an official.—Ed.). It was a breach of the honourable traditions of public business, and unless people learnt the ordinary conditions of conducting such business, they degraded themselves and degraded the Council.

#### In Camera.

THE CHAIRMAN then said that the Council would consider business (Applications for Registration) *in camera*.

As Item 10 on the Agenda "Election of (Chairman of Council, and) Committees" still remained to be disposed of, the representative of this Journal waited to be recalled, only to find, at the end of an hour, that this business, which has hitherto been transacted in the presence of the Press, had been transacted *in camera*.

## THE STANDING COMMITTEES.

The Standing Committees for 1924, elected at the January Meeting of the Council are formed as follows:—

**Finance.**—Miss Barratt, Miss Bushby, Miss Cox-Davies, Mr. Cronshaw, Mr. Donaldson, Miss Musson, Sir Jenner Verrall, Miss Villiers.

**Registration.**—Miss Alsop, Miss Cox-Davies, Dr. Goodall, Mr. Donaldson, Miss Musson, Miss du Sautoy, Mr. Stratton, and Miss Villiers.

**Education and Examination.**—Miss Alsop, Miss Bushby, Miss Cowlin, Miss Cox-Davies, Dr. Goodall, Miss Coode, Miss du Sautoy, Miss Musson, Miss Villiers, Dr. Smedley, Miss Sparshott, Miss Lloyd-Still.

**Disciplinary and Penal Cases.**—Miss Bushby, Miss Cowlin, Sir J. Verrall, Miss Musson, Mr. Stratton, Miss Smith, Miss Wiese, Miss S. Yapp.

**Mental.**—Miss Alsop, Miss Bremner, Miss Cowlin, Mr. Donaldson, Dr. Bedford Pierce, Dr. Smedley, Miss Wiese, Miss S. Yapp.

**General Purposes.**—Miss Alsop, Miss Bremner, Miss Bushby, Miss Cox-Davies, Dr. Goodall, Miss du Sautoy.

At the meeting of the Education and Examination Committee held at the Office, 12, York Gate, N.W., on Tuesday, January 22nd, Miss Lloyd-Still was re-elected Chairman.

At the meeting of the Registration Committee held on Friday, January 25th, Miss E. M. Musson, R.R.C., was elected chairman instead of Dr. Goodall.

Miss Musson has always been a consistent registrationist, and her signature on the Nurses' Registration Certificates, replacing that of Dr. Goodall, is a step in the right direction.

## THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

We have been asked by a representative member of the South African Trained Nurses' Association (affiliated to the I.C.N.) to make quite plain the extent of co-operation permissible between doctors, health workers, hospital governors, and others, who are not members of the Council, at the Triennial Meetings of the I.C.N.

It is quite simple.

At the Triennial Meetings of the Executive Committee, and the Grand Council—only the honorary officers and the Official Delegates of the affiliated National Associations can take part—as they alone are voting members of the International Council. All Resolutions to be discussed must appear on the agendas of these business meetings.

But there have always been wide facilities for fraternal delegates of trained nurses, and other guests, to take a part in the Congress on Nursing and allied questions—invariably organised in connection with the International Meeting. The meetings of Congress are entirely distinct from the business meetings of the Council—and have been held in large halls to which the general public have been admitted. Eminent medical practitioners, and men and women interested in nursing, in its relation to public health, and in educational, economic and social reform questions, have been invited to present papers in Congress—and the widest discussion encouraged. But no resolutions of a professional nature are presented at these open meetings. Such discussions have proved very instructive and valuable.

The Committee to organise the Nursing Congress sits in the country where the International Meeting is to be held, thus Finland, under the chairmanship of the President, Baroness Sophie Mannerheim, will be responsible for the programme in 1925.

In Scandinavia conferences of nurses are very popular, and are very ably organised by the various nurses' National Bodies.

The social side of the Congress has always been well to the fore. In London in 1909 the late King Edward VII was most gracious in the facilities he granted at Windsor and Frogmore—and he sent the Council a most charming message on the opening day. The Lord Mayor of London welcomed the Council at the Mansion House in the City of London. The American Ambassador and Mrs. Whitelaw Reid entertained representative delegates to luncheon, and the whole Congress to a lovely afternoon party at Holford House. The late Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, received 700 guests in the historic Great Hall of the Empire's premier hospital, the whole official suite of rooms having been placed at her disposal by the Treasurer and Almoners, and the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland—the Hostess Council—held a splendid banquet, at which Lord Ampthill (who in the previous year had guided the Nurses' Registration Bill through the House of Lords) presided.

At Cologne, in 1912, the German Nurses' Association, under the Presidency of Fraulein Agnes Karll, supplemented the Congress work with the most splendid hospitality, at which the music was superb and the exhibition of living pictures entrancing. The social side of the International Council is invaluable, as it brings together not only the trained nurses, but keeps them in touch with scientific and philanthropic people—who thus learn something of the value of Nursing Education in furthering standards of National Health, and the justice of professional status and self-determination for a class of workers whose services to the community are invaluable. No professional class can progress unless freedom of conscience, speech and action is encouraged. Thus our International motto is "Co-operation with all, fusion with none."

Remember the International is a Council of Nurses—not of Nursing.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)