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## Editorial.

### The Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

THE THREE-DAY COURSE arranged for Secretaries of affiliated Associations, as a wonderfully timely innovation, brings us to reflect on the marvellous conception of the Founder, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, when she inaugurated the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

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"All good things come to those who wait. We, who have felt the inspiration of cordial professional relations, and mutual goodwill with our colleagues across the seas, who realise that the present age is an age of combination, and that we must think and act in communities if we are to do so effectively, have waited with what patience we could muster for the fruition of our hopes—namely, the affiliation of some central body in this country with the International Council of Nurses.

"Friday, November 25th, 1904, saw the fulfilment of the desire which has animated some of us since the great International Congress of Women was held in London in 1899, when we learnt the strength of the International Bond which has 'lifted women of many nations, many creeds, many tongues, many walks of life, out of their former isolation into a fuller, freer atmosphere.' We have longed ever since to see the same principle applied to our own profession, and, to the more ardent spirits amongst us, five years has seemed a long time to wait. We have been confronted by the difficulties of which Mrs. May Wright Sewall, President of the International Council of Women, spoke when she supported the formation of an International Council of Nurses at the Matrons' Council Meeting in 1899. 'I wish to speak,' she said, 'of certain difficulties that we must face in order that we may overcome them, and while my friends are either kind or unkind, enough to imply that I may fly—and flying is not practised—while they walk, and that is the accepted method of locomotion, I will say that I see nothing that is not entirely practical both in the International Idea itself, and in this application of it.'

"We in this country cannot be accused of flying. We have walked soberly every step of the way, hand in hand with those of our colleagues who prefer the more usually-accepted method of locomotion, but at last, through the organisation adopted in April—the Provisional Committee of a National Council of Nurses, formed of delegates of Nurses' Leagues and self-governing societies of nurses—we have considered and accepted the invit-

ation of the International Council of Nurses to affiliate with it, and through it, with similar societies of nurses throughout the world."

### MEETING OF THE PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE

"On Friday, November 25th, the members of the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses of England met at 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

"Miss Isla Stewart, Hon. Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses, presided, and delegates of every society represented on the Provisional Committee were present:—

The Matrons' Council.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses.

The League of St. John's House Nurses.

The League of Chelsea Infirmary Nurses.

The Leicester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League.

The Registered Nurses' Society."

## Preventing Child Delinquency.

### How the District Nurse can Help

THE PART THE DISTRICT NURSE can play in helping to prevent juvenile delinquency was described by Mr. Basil L. Q. Henriques, C.B.E., J.P., Chairman of the East London Juvenile Court, to the annual meeting of the Central Council for District Nursing in London on May 29th. He explained that the district nurses could perform what he described as "a magnificent service," by informing the authorities about unwanted and unloved children who lived in the homes they visited.

An amazing number of these children became delinquent as a result of their unhappy home surroundings, but the tragedy could be avoided if they were given proper care and attention at an early stage.

Emphasising the need for voluntary organisations within the Welfare State, Mr. Henriques said that although much of what had previously been done in a voluntary capacity was now the duty of statutory bodies, there were more children coming before the Juvenile Courts than ever before in peace-time.

"On the surface, the State seems to take care of its citizens from birth to death," he said, "but there are many gaps in what the State can do, and the place of the voluntary organisations is to fill those gaps.

"The State helps to satisfy physical material needs, but it cannot possibly pay enough workers to give the personal service required; it cannot train a man to

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