

The American Federation of Nurses and the German Nurses' Association were warmly in favour of affiliation, and she noted with pleasure that the two official organs of Australasian nurses had given publicity to the transactions of the Berlin Conference. *The Australasian Nurses' Journal*, referring "to the compliment paid to Miss McGahey and to the whole nursing profession in Australia" in electing her President of the International Council for the next quinquennial period, concluded with the following sentence: "The others are moving on, and we, too, must advance, if only to show that the compliment paid to us was not unmerited. Let us take care that when Miss McGahey takes the seat of honour at the International Council in 1909, she shall be entrusted with the duty of applying for the affiliation of the National Council of Nurses of Australia."

Mrs. Fenwick then proposed that the Provisional Committee accept the invitation to affiliate, conveyed by Miss Dock on behalf of the International Council of Nurses. This was seconded by Mrs. Kildare Treacy, and carried unanimously.

A letter addressed to Miss Dock by Miss Margaret E. MacDonnell, Secretary of the Irish Nurses' Association, was then considered.

The letter was as follows:—

Irish Nurses' Association,
86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin.

MISS DOCK, MADAM.—At a crowded meeting of the Irish Nurses' Association, held on October 4th inst., your letter dated July 22nd, regarding the affiliation of our Association with the International Council of Nurses as one with the National Council of English Nurses, was read. The members were unanimous in their desire to join the International Council of Nurses, and with one dissident only they were unanimous in the opinion that English, Irish and Scottish nurses should band together to enter the International Council as one strong body, and not three comparatively small sections of one kingdom, but they could not join with the English nurses unless the title of the National Council of Nurses of England was changed to the National Council of British Nurses, or some such comprehensible title. We should be glad to know all particulars, conditions, and the obligations our Association would incur in the event of its affiliation with the National Council of Nurses of England.

I beg to remain,
Sincerely yours,

MARGARET E. MACDONNELL,
Secretary.

Miss Stewart said the letter was a very pleasant one to hear; she felt sure that everyone present would be glad that this course commended itself to the Irish Nurses' Association.

Mrs. Kildare Treacy said that as a rule it was very difficult to get nurses together to consider things outside their own work, but the Irish nurses were quite enthusiastic when the proposition as to international affiliation was explained to them.

It was agreed, on the proposition of Miss Roberts, seconded by Miss Barton, that the name of the Committee should be altered to "The Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland." It was also agreed to communicate with the Irish Nurses' Association, informing it that its letter to Miss Dock had been read and considered, and the suggestion contained in it, that English and Irish nurses should co-operate, heartily approved by the Provisional Committee of a National Council of Nurses for England, and asking it also to communicate direct with the Hon. Secretary of the Provisional Committee.

A letter was then read from Miss Dwight, President of the Parish of Nottingham Nurses' League, expressing the desire of the League for affiliation, and nominating the following six members for approval as delegates:—Miss E. F. Dwight,

Miss M. Norman, 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.

Fight Against Rheumatism.

OPENING A HOSTEL for rheumatic sufferers at Bracken Hill House, Northwood, Middlesex, recently, Miss Pat Hornsby-Smith, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, said that rheumatic diseases, despite some progress, still held many unfortunate people in a tyrannical grip and were the cause of untold pain and suffering.

"These diseases are not confined to any particular class or section of the population," she said.

No lasting progress would be possible until the actual cause of rheumatism had been discovered. There was unremitting research going on. Meanwhile it was most desirable that those affected should seek medical advice at an early stage because the disease, though never a killing one, might be seriously crippling.

Since the war the financial support given to research of rheumatism both by voluntary and governmental agencies had substantially increased. Research centres up and down the country now received steadily increasing support from the Medical Research Council, from the Regional Hospital Boards, from many University Departments of Medicine as well as from voluntary organisations such as the Nuffield Foundation. Miss Hornsby-Smith went on:—

"In these circumstances, and because of the importance of the problem in the economic field, the Ministry will watch with great interest the present venture at Bracken Hill House, the fundamental idea of which is to enable patients to be temporarily resident near to a hospital which possesses specially experienced medical staff as well as adequate treatment facilities. The British Rheumatic Association rightly regards this as a pioneer effort, and it is, of course, a field of experiment for which voluntary effort is pre-eminently suited. Such pioneer ventures are always difficult for a Ministry to promote, but experiments by voluntary organisations often provide a useful guide to later official action.

"I welcome the financial support which Industry has given ventures such as this, for to them rheumatism presents a grave manpower and production problem. I am also glad to know that a two-years financial guarantee has most generously been given by Lord Nuffield, of £1,000 a year against loss in operation. It is of particular interest that patients for the 25 beds with which the Hostel is starting will initially be mainly drawn and selected from industry.

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