

The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

A MEETING OF THE Grand Council of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was held at Riddell House, St. Thomas' Hospital, London, on November 25th, 1954, by permission of Miss M. J. Smyth, the Matron, and the Hospital Board of Governors.

Before the meeting, a service was held in the Hospital Chapel at which an address to nurses was given by Canon Marriott, who took the place of Dr. Don, Dean of Westminster, who was prevented from attending.

At the start of the meeting, at which the President Miss L. G. Duff Grant took the Chair, Miss Smyth welcomed all the delegates to St. Thomas' Hospital, which she considered an honour, this being Nightingale centenary year and the 50th birthday of the National Council of Nurses.

The Chairman reported that a Joint Committee had been formed between the National Council of Nurses, the Royal College of Nursing, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Labour and National Service to consider the qualifications of foreign-trained nurses who made application for their names to be included in the list maintained by the Ministry of Health. In this connection, the Ministry of Health had agreed to give financial help to the National Council of Nurses to cover the cost of this work.

It was reported that the President had been invited to attend the centenary celebrations of the Young Women's Christian Association, taking place in 1955. Arrangements were being made for the presentation of purses at the Royal Albert Hall in May, 1955. It was announced that each purse should contain a minimum of £100, so this matter was deferred so that some decision could be made.

A letter was reported from the Sheffield Royal Infirmary Nurses' League suggesting that Grand Council meetings might sometimes be held in the provinces. It was agreed that it would be difficult to arrange this, but it was hoped that perhaps some of the Executive Committee meetings might be held outside London.

The President's Report.

In her report, the President told those present that an appeal had been made to the Boards of Governors of Teaching Hospitals for financial help to start a Reserve Fund for the National Council; later the Hon. Treasurer reported that the sum of £829 8s. had been received for this purpose.

The President drew the attention to the proposal that a banquet be held next year to celebrate the 50th anniversary (in 1954) of the founding of the National Council; after a vote had been taken it was agreed that the banquet be held in the Great Hall of the Royal College of Surgeons on May 12th, 1955.

The news that the Executive Secretary had been awarded a Travelling Scholarship by the Commonwealth Fund of America to visit the U.S.A. was received with acclamation. It was hoped that Miss Rowe might also visit Canada. For this purpose the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain had awarded her £100.

The Result of the Election.

It was reported that the following Hon. Officers had been elected:—

President : Miss L. G. Duff Grant.

Vice-President : Miss M. Marriott.

Hon. Secretary : Miss M. S. Cochrane.

Hon. Treasurer : Miss D. A. Lane.

Two Directors : Miss M. A. Gannon and Miss M. J. Smyth.

The President reported the receipt of a letter from Lord Luke asking if the National Council of Nurses would again undertake the arrangements for the sale of emblems on Florence

Nightingale's Birthday, May 12th, 1955. After a good deal of discussion it was agreed that the National Council of Nurses could not again undertake the sale of emblems or the arrangement of hospital chapel services on that day; this should be left to the Hospital Leagues.

Applications for Affiliation.

The following Leagues of Nurses were admitted to the National Council of Nurses:

The Ophthalmic Nurses' Association, and the League of Trained Nurses of the Whittington Hospital. The Radcliffe Guild of Nurses were re-admitted to membership.

The Royal Waterloo Hospital Nurses' League had to withdraw from membership because of their financial position.

Votes of thanks were proposed to Miss M. J. Smyth for the very generous hospitality accorded to the National Council of Nurses by the Board of Governors of St. Thomas' Hospital.

The New Year Honours.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has conferred many Honours upon her subjects, and we congratulate the members of the Nursing Profession who have been honoured.

Order of the British Empire.

CIVIL DIVISION.

D.B.E.

Miss Elizabeth Cockayne, Chief Nursing Officer, Ministry of Health.

MILITARY DIVISION.

Air Commandant Roberta Mary Whyte, R.R.C., Q.H.N.S., Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service.

O.B.E.

Miss Gwendolen N. Burbidge; Miss Ruth H. Pecker, Registrar, General Nursing Council for Scotland; Miss Beatrice A. Shaw, Matron, Harefield Hospital, Middlesex; Miss Marie E. Little, Matron, Sunnyside Mental Hospital, Christchurch, New Zealand; Miss Dorothy Carroll, Matron, Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital, Adelaide, South Australia; Miss Denise E. Sanderson, Staff Matron and Head of the Southern Rhodesia Nursing Service.

Royal Red Cross.

Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service.

FIRST CLASS, R.R.C.

Miss Helen Moore, Principal Matron.

SECOND CLASS, A.R.R.C.

Miss Doreen Geoghegan, Head V.A.D. Nursing Member.

Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

FIRST CLASS, R.R.C.

Lt.-Col. Joan Howe, A.R.R.C., Col. Enid G. M. Reynolds.

SECOND CLASS, A.R.R.C.

Major Dorothy Hunt.

Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps.

FIRST CLASS, R.R.C.

Lt.-Col. (hon. Col.) E. J. Rowe, Matron-in-Chief.

Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service

SECOND CLASS, A.R.R.C.

Squadron Officer Dorothy G. Masters; Flight Officer Doriel V. L. Sharples.

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