

### Conference of Provisional Committee.

A MEETING of the majority of the foreign nurses invited to act upon the Provisional Committee of the proposed International Council of Nurses met at the Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, by the kind invitation of Miss Isla Stewart, on the afternoon of Sunday, 2nd July, as so many of the nurses attending the Congress were leaving town on the following day.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, after a short explanation of the present condition of nursing organization in this country, stated that as the influential members of the nursing profession in many lands must be consulted as to the best constitution for governing an efficient International Council of Nurses, plenty of time must be given in which to interest these ladies in the Council, and also to obtain their advice. She therefore formally proposed several resolutions, which were unanimously agreed to.

1. "That the proposed International Council of Nurses should be formed of trained nurse delegates, appointed in such numbers and in such a manner as may be hereafter arranged."
2. "That a Provisional International Committee be now formed to carry this idea into practical effect; with power to add to its number nurses representing other countries than those at present represented; to draft a form of organisation, and the necessary Articles of Association defining the Constitution of the Council, and Bye-Laws and Regulations to guide its proceedings; and to take the necessary steps to commence the formation of National Councils of Nurses in various countries, and to convene a meeting of delegates then nominated in London or Paris as may be found most suitable in 1900, in order to adopt the Constitution which may be agreed upon, and formally commence the work of the International Council of Nurses."
3. "That the Provisional Committee be now constituted as follows:—

*"The United Kingdom*—Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Councillor Matrons' Council; Miss Isla Stewart, Chairman Matrons' Council; Miss C. M. Beachcroft, Councillor Matrons' Council; Miss M. N. Cureton, Councillor Matrons' Council; Miss Gertrude Knight, Vice-Chairman Matrons' Council; Miss Margaret Huxley, Vice-Chairman Matrons' Council; Miss M. Mollett, Vice-Chairman Matrons' Council; Miss M. Breay, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer Matrons' Council.

*"The United States*—Mrs. Hampton Robb, Hon. Member Matrons' Council; Miss Lavinia Dock, Hon. Member Matrons' Council; Miss Brennan, Hon. Member Matrons' Council; Miss Hanna Kindbom, Hon. Member Matrons' Council; Mrs. Quintard, New York; and Miss Lucy Walker, Philadelphia.

*"Canada*—Miss Snively, Hon. Member Matrons' Council; and Miss Murray, Toronto.

*"New Zealand*—Mrs. Grace Neill, Hon. Member Matron's Council.

*"New South Wales.*—Miss McGahey, Hon. Member Matrons' Council.

*"Victoria.*—Miss M. Farquharson, Hon. Member Matrons' Council.

*"Holland.*—Miss Reijnvaan, Hon. Member Matrons' Council; Miss Krüysse, Amsterdam.

To represent countries where the Matrons' Council have not yet an Honorary Member.

*"Cape Colony.*—Sister Henrietta of Kimberley.

*"Denmark.*—Mrs. Gordon Norrie, Corresponding Secretary of the Danish National Council of Women."

It was further agreed that Miss M. Breay should, in the initial stages of the proceedings, act as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Provisional Committee.

The members of the Committee present requested that the English members should draft the suggested constitution; and that it should be sent round to all the international members, so that they might duly consider it and return it with their suggestions before the Constitution and Bye-Laws were presented to the assembled delegates in 1900. This was agreed to.

It was unanimously agreed to that the proposal to organize an International Council of Nurses should be brought to the notice of the Heads of Nurses' Training Schools and organized Societies of Nurses, by each country's representatives, with a view to making the Council as efficient and representative as possible.

The meeting then adjourned.

### Items of Interest.

HER MAJESTY has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of nearly a hundred new Queen's Nurses—sixty-five for England, six for Wales, sixteen for Scotland, and ten for Ireland. District nursing under the authority of the Institute is much more popular with nurses than the old system of isolated parish work.

PROFESSOR JAMES ROBERTSON, who spoke so feelingly in the Nursing Session of the Congress, is the Agricultural Commissioner in Canada, and also Hon. Sec. of the Victorian Order of Nurses in Canada.

MANY eminent foreign medical women attended the Congress, amongst them Dr. Aletta Jacobs, who was the first woman to take the M.D. degree at Groningen University in 1879, and was also the first woman in Holland who demanded to be inscribed as a voter. Dr. Jacobs practises as a physician in Amsterdam.

MADAME HELENE KAZAKEVITCH (Stefanovskaia) is Secretary of the Medical Women's Association for Mutual Help at St. Petersburg, where she holds a Government appointment in the Municipal Hospital.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)