

In the absence of Miss Snively, the Hon. Treasurer, the President called upon Miss Breay to read the

FINANCIAL REPORT.

This showed a balance in hand on January 1st, 1901, of 14 dols. 18 cents, and of donations received by the Treasurer since that time of 14 dols. 75 cents. The balance in the Treasurer's hands on May 14th 1904, was 18 dols. 42 cents.

Miss Breay also reported that since the formation of the Council £18 10s. had been received for the expenses of the Council in Great Britain, mainly the gift of an anonymous friend.

The adoption of the Reports was proposed by Miss Mollett, seconded by Miss Burr.

Miss Mollett further proposed that the thanks of the Council be accorded to the Hon. Officers for their economical management, and Miss Burr proposed that its thanks be also conveyed to the anonymous friend who had so generously subscribed to the funds in Great Britain. Both these propositions were carried by acclamation. The General and Financial Reports were then adopted.

The following ladies were then appointed Scrutineers to examine the voting papers which had been sent in for the election of Hon. Officers for the ensuing Quinquennial Period:—

Miss Isla Stewart.

Miss Margaret Huxley.

Miss M. E. Thornton.

AFFILIATION OF NATIONAL COUNCILS.

The President explained that in drafting its Constitution the International Council of Nurses had followed the organisation of the International Council of Women, the principle adopted being that the International Council should be composed of National Councils represented in the International by duly appointed Delegates, and that National Councils, in their turn, should be composed of Delegates from self-governing Nursing Associations—that is to say, Associations of Nurses in which the nurses who composed them had the power of the vote.

In the United States the organisation of a National Council was complete. There the graduates of the various schools formed themselves into Alumnae Associations, which were united in the National Associated Alumnae, and, later, by joint delegation with the American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools formed the American Federation of Nurses, which, again, was affiliated to the National Council of Women.

America was a great place for organisation, due no doubt to the fact that Americans legislated for their own times, and left those who came after them to manage their own affairs.

In Great Britain there were three strong national elements—English, Scotch, and Irish—which were not always blended in a perfect manner. Each had national characteristics, and it was a matter for consideration whether Great Britain

and Ireland should have one National Council, or whether each country should organise separately.

In the largest society of nurses in Great Britain, the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, it had been found expedient for each country to have its own branch, and it seemed probable that it would be best for the National Council of Nurses to adopt this method. Ireland had its Irish Nurses' Association, which could act as a National Council. It was a young society, but not quite so young as it appeared, as it was a wider development of the former Nurses' Club. The Scotch were sturdy but slow, and must be given time. In England a tumultuous upheaval was still seething. English nurses were divided into two parties, the Reactionaries and the Progressives, and neither had much use for the other. At a Conference of Progressives recently called by Miss Isla Stewart, Hon. Vice-President for England, a Provisional Committee of forty-two nurses, representing seven self-governing societies, was formed, to act as the intermediary between that country and the International Council, until such time as the nurses represented numbered 5,000, when the full constitution of a National Council would be considered. It spoke well for the enthusiasm of the forty-two delegates forming the Provisional Committee that fifteen out of that number were present at this meeting.

In Germany, as Fraulein Karl had explained, the German Nurses' Association had been formed by nurses called the "Free Sisters," because after their training is over they claim the right to a self-governing life. Thus their organisation is like that of English and American nurses. Everyone realised the good work done by the Religious Orders, but that was no reason why the Free Sisters should not organise on lines which seemed good to them. They had a right to an individual and professional life uncontrolled by religious communities.

There was at present very little organisation of nurses except in the three countries she had mentioned, but if they were prepared to affiliate, and so form the International Council of Nurses on a corporate instead of an individual basis, the number of nurses represented would be upwards of 8,000, quite a sufficient number to form a solid foundation of a Council organised on representative lines.

The only persons who had a right to vote on this question were the Foundation Members and the Hon. Vice-Presidents. She would now like to ask the representatives of the countries concerned their feeling on the matter; perhaps Miss Thornton, the Delegate of the National Associated Alumnae of the United States, would tell the meeting the feeling of American nurses on the question.

Miss Thornton said she thought there was not much room for argument on the question. The American Federation of Nurses was quite willing to come into the Council. She thought there was nothing to be done but to get into International relations.

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