

- 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 Infirmary Nurses' League.
- The Registered Nurses' Society.

Mrs. Kildare Treacy, Lady Superintendent of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution, who had come over from Dublin, attended as the representative of the Irish Nurses' Association.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Miss Stewart said:—

LADIES,—When we last met, on April 8th, it was with the object of forming a Provisional Committee which might act as the Intermediary between the nurses of this country and the International Council of Nurses until such time as a National Council of Nurses is fully formed, and it was unanimously decided that this was desirable. Those present were commissioned to carry back to the Leagues and Societies which they represented an account of the proceedings, asking them to co-operate in the formation of a Provisional Committee, with the result that we now have forty-two delegates from seven societies, and we have before us to-day an application for representation on the Committee from the Parish of Nottingham Nurses' League.

The following fifteen members of this Provisional Committee were present at the Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council of Nurses held in Berlin in June last:—

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the International Council of Nurses, *Delegate of the Registered Nurses' Society*.

Miss Isla Stewart, Hon. Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses for Great Britain and Ireland.

Miss Knight, Matron General Hospital, Nottingham; Miss Ross, Matron, Western Hospital, Fulham; Miss M. Breay, Hon. Secretary, *Delegates of the Matrons' Council*.

Miss Richmond, Matron, Women's Hospital, Birmingham; Miss Huxley, President Irish Nurses' Association; Miss MacDonnell, R.R.C., Matron of the Richmond Hospital, Dublin *Delegates of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses*.

Miss Jenkins, Lady Superintendent, Resident Staff Quarters, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.; Miss E. M. Waind, Lady Superintendent, Galen House, Guildford, *Delegates of the League of the St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses*.

Miss Barton, Matron of the Chelsea Infirmary; The Lady Hermione Blackwood, *Delegates of the Chelsea Infirmary Nurses' League*.

Miss M. Burr, *Delegate of the League of St. John's House Nurses*.

Miss Rogers, Matron of the Leicester Infirmary;

Miss E. Pell Smith, Lady Superintendent of the Home Hospital, Leicester, *Delegates of the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League*.

At the meeting of the International Council the following resolution was carried unanimously:—

"That invitations be officially sent to the Federation of American Nurses, the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses of England, and the German Nurses' Association, inviting them to affiliate with the International Council of Nurses."

Since then I have received a letter from Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Secretary of the Council, formally inviting this Provisional Committee to co-operate with the Council, and it is to consider this letter that this meeting has been convened to-day.

The Chairman then called upon Miss Breay to read Miss Dock's letter, which was as follows:—

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE UPON INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATION FOR ENGLAND.

Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee:—

It is my most pleasant duty to lay before you for your formal consideration the following action taken by the International Council of Nurses at its meeting in Berlin on June 17th. After the hearing of reports from different countries on the status of nursing organisation, it was proposed by Miss Isla Stewart, seconded by Miss Dock, and carried unanimously:—

"That invitations be officially sent to the American Federation of Nurses, the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses of England, and the German Nurses' Association, inviting them to affiliate with the International Council of Nurses."

I therefore beg your earnest consideration of the motion, with all that it involves, and confidently hope for an affirmative reply, as your very presence at the Berlin meeting, which gave the Councillors of the International such deep satisfaction and hope, was an assurance that English nurses were sympathetically interested in the question of international union.

The aspiration which draws us on toward international bonds is the aspiration toward a full and complete self-development. We feel—we see in all directions—we hear on all sides, in all countries, the criticisms and reproaches directed against unworthy representatives of our profession. Crude and half-educated women, being admitted as they are by hundreds every year into the ranks of nursing, with no standards, no ideals, no stimulus, must inevitably drag down the good name of the nursing art, once rescued from ignominy by Florence Nightingale and her peers. It is not the fault of nurses themselves that this flood of half-trained women is being poured forth. It is the result of ignorance on the part of hospital and infirmary managers, of greed on the side of nursing institutions, and of indifference on the part of the public.

Nevertheless, intelligent and educated nurses are seriously to blame if they do not take cognisance of bad conditions. The refined and educated nurses must set the standard and draw the line to-day, just as Miss Nightingale did, by exerting the power of character and influence as she did.

But to do this it is absolutely necessary to have a

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)