

certain amount of freedom and privilege. The nurse must be allowed the freedom and responsibility of a member of the State and of Society. If she is under tutelage, under the repression of outside control, dependent perhaps for her bread and butter on the will of others before whom her own mind must bend, forbidden any share in the conduct of her own affairs, she is helpless.

Therefore it is that the fundamental necessity of self-development is freedom to develop, or self-government, and so the germ or root idea of the International Council is to seek, in all countries, those nurses who are struggling toward self-government, to the end that they may improve their status, and that of their fellow-workers.

In several countries this struggle is going on with ever-increasing intensity. In Germany a Society of self-governing nurses has been formed, after enduring actual persecution, misrepresentation, and even abuse from those elements of Society which have endeavoured, often with excellent motives, to keep nurses in a state of individual dependency. The German nurses are beginning to realise that the entire community of nurses throughout the State earns yearly large sums of money which they are not permitted to enjoy, but which goes mainly to institutions.

They realise, further, that this opportunity for gain makes it profitable for many institutions to send forth an imperfectly-educated and poorly-trained type of nurse; and they realise that this is a menace to the community and an injustice to the worker.

Italy and France also show very interesting conditions of nursing development, but they are not yet ready for international affiliation.

The three countries named in the motion, with Ireland, either separately or with England, are the only ones at present having organisations framed on national lines—as in New Zealand and Australia, where nurses have attained a most advantageous position, national bodies have not yet formed.

We must, however, expect that these fortunate countries will soon realise how much help they may be able to give to others.

In the hope that we may all support and encourage one another in the work of progress,

I remain, most sincerely yours,

L. L. Dock,
Secretary.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said she felt sure all present had listened with sympathy to Miss Dock's most inspiring letter. 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 dissentient 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,

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