

16.—That the Chairman of the Council be elected by ballot yearly at the first meeting of the Council after the Annual General Meeting.

17.—That a written notice be sent to each member at least eight days before each meeting, stating the place, day, and hour the meeting is to take place, and the nature of the business to be transacted.

18.—That written notice be given to the Secretary, at least 12 days before the day of meeting, of any motion or motions which it is intended to move at such meeting, and of any business other than the ordinary business which it is intended to introduce. A copy of this written notice shall be sent by the Secretary with the notice convening the meeting.

19.—That the Council may, after due investigation, undertake the conduct or defence of, or assist in conducting or defending any proceedings, whether of a strictly legal character or otherwise, concerning or affecting any member who may desire their assistance, provided that the cause of action or of the proceedings, or the action or the proceedings have not arisen or been commenced prior to the date of the commencement of her membership of the Association, and that such member give a written undertaking to abide absolutely by the decision of the Council as to the conduct or defence of the case.

20.—That the Council have full discretion either to defend or to refuse or cease to assist or defend a member in any case whatever.

21.—That the Council have power to fill casual vacancies amongst the officers, or in their own body, should the number fall below twelve, subject to confirmation by the next Annual General Meeting.

The Hon. Officers, namely the President, Treasurer, and Secretary, shall be ex-officio members of the Council.

Candidates for the Council shall be nominated by two members of the Association, and such nominations shall be sent to the Secretary one clear month before the date of the Annual Meeting.

22.—That the Council cause proper books and accounts to be kept and audited, showing all monies received and expended by the Association, and minutes and records of their proceedings.

#### THE COUNCIL.

It was then proposed by Miss Worrall that the Council should consist of the following persons:—Miss Fox, Matron of the City of London Lying-In Hospital; Miss Davies, Matron of St. Mary's Hospital; Miss Gregory, Hon. Secretary, Home for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich; Miss Mumby, Matron of the Hospital for Women, Brighton; Miss Gibson, Matron of the Infirmary, Birmingham; Miss Dorothea Oldham, late Member of the Central Midwives' Board; Miss Newton, Matron of the Ipswich Nurses' Home; Miss Bladen, Matron, Cheltenham Nurses' Home; Miss Breay, formerly Matron, Metropolitan Hospital, N.E.; Miss Buchanan; Miss Elsie Hall; Miss Burnside, Inspector of Midwives for Hertfordshire; Mrs. Hodgkins, Mrs. Hubber, and Mrs. Lee, of the Royal Maternity Charity; Miss McQueen, Super-

intendent, Plaistow Maternity Charity; Dr. St. Aubyn Farrer, and Dr. Knocker, who was also a barrister-at-law.

Mrs. Hodgkins proposed the addition of the names of Major Killick, Secretary of the Royal Maternity Charity, and of Mr. Sorrell, who was a solicitor.

Considerable discussion ensued, and Dr. Fremantle emphasised the necessity of having a distinguished Council. It would have to deal with money, and the medical profession was not businesslike. They needed business men upon it to advise them. The Association might have to defend its members before the Central Midwives' Board, an authority, which though not a legal court had legal powers, and from which there was no appeal. (N.B.—This is incorrect. The Act provides for an appeal to the Court of Quarter Sessions.—Ed.), and if the Council were not careful it might find all its funds absorbed in the defence of a single case. It was important to have the very best help possible. The Council nominated was not distinguished enough.

The Chairman said the Council would not rush into litigation, and Miss Breay pointed out that the Council suggested by Miss Worrall included the names of a number of ladies who are holding or had held important positions as Matrons in the midwifery world, and who were sufficiently distinguished to command confidence. She said further that it should not be forgotten that they must depend for advice as to the course of action to be pursued not on any business men who might be placed on the Council, but on the solicitor whom they would employ. She believed that midwives were competent to manage their own business matters, but, if not, desirable as organisation was, they were safer unorganised.

Miss McQueen, seconded by Miss Davies, proposed to reduce the nominations to 15, in order to leave a larger number of vacancies to be filled at a later date, but ultimately the proposer withdrew her amendment, and the 20 persons nominated were elected.

#### THE HON. OFFICERS.

The next business was the election of Hon. Officers. It was agreed to defer the election of President, and Miss B. M. Worrall was unanimously elected Hon. Secretary, and Mr. Watts Treasurer of the Association.

On the proposition of Miss Paget, it was agreed to send a message of thanks to Mrs. Lee, who had acted as Hon. Secretary during the preliminary organisation.

Mr. Watts proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Midwives' Institute for the assistance it had rendered, and Miss Breay, while endorsing this, said that the members must not forget that their thanks were also due to the Midwives of the Royal Maternity Charity, to whose initiative they were indebted for the inauguration of the Association, and, the vote of thanks having been carried by acclamation, and accepted by Miss Paget on behalf of the Midwives' Institute, the meeting terminated.

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