

The International Council of Nurses.

The coming meeting of the International Council of Nurses next July, in London, will be the regular business meeting of the Council, and there will be, among other things, several changes in details of the constitution and by-laws for the delegates who are present from the different countries to consider.

First of these is a proposed amendment relating to the honorary presidency. As it stands at present, the constitution of the International is thus worded: *A President of the Council having held the office for a full term, shall be made, upon retiring, honorary president of the Council, with a vote on the executive committee and grand council for life.*

At the meeting of the executive committee last summer in Paris, at which the three countries now in membership, Great Britain, the United States, and Germany were represented by their officers—it was moved by Mrs. Fenwick, and seconded by Sister Agnes Karll, that the word "shall" in this article should be changed to "may," the article then reading thus:—*A president—may be made, etc.*

The discussion on the motion elicited the opinion that it should be possible for the council to retain in its service women who had given effective stimulus to the international movement, and who were likely to continue their interest and their work in its behalf, but that it should not be mandatory, as that would create a precedent for the future which might sometime be embarrassing and even stand in the way of future development, as it is impossible for one age to foresee the lines on which a future age may develop best.

The motion was adopted and it was directed that the secretary should at the proper time, submit it to the national associations, in membership, that their delegates might come instructed how to vote upon it.

The question of the fees and dues from each country was next brought up, and this involved the article relating to the number of official delegates from the different countries. At present, the constitution provides for four regular delegates from each country, besides the officers. The fees for each country to pay were fixed at £1 (\$5) for each of the four delegates. This would make a heavy assessment for many of the European countries, especially where organisation is young. It was moved by Sister Agnes Karll, and seconded by Miss Dock, that the fee per delegate remain the same, but the number of delegates be changed

to two. In the discussion, it was recognised that the fee of twenty dollars, even every five years, might be felt as oppressive by the nurses' societies of Europe, as, in these countries, the nurses are obliged to maintain expensive headquarters and transact a great amount of business for their members which English and American customs do not require; as they have to pay for a great deal of record-keeping which is stipulated for by the departments of government—educational, statistical, and insurance—and that they have, moreover, a much greater burden in the calls upon their sick and emergency funds. As the associations may sometimes find it necessary to pay at least part of their delegates' expenses, it was felt to be important to make their dues as light as possible. The motion was adopted and the secretary instructed as before.

Both of these motions will be brought up at the London meeting for final decision by the members present.

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.,
Secretary.

A motion will also be brought up that the Council shall meet triennially instead of quinquennially.

The International Nursing Congress.

A Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Trained Nurses was held at the offices, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Saturday, the 16th inst., Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in the chair.

Several hours were devoted to considering the business and programme arrangements for the forthcoming International Nursing Congress, to be held in London in July. A letter was read from Miss L. L. Dock, Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, stating that she was in communication with the Vice-Presidents of the various countries, and the President pointed out that the officers of the International Council would make all the arrangements for the quinquennial business meeting of the International Council. The Congress arrangements would be made by the hostess National Council of Great Britain and Ireland. The International Council would meet in London on the morning of Monday, July 19th, to transact business; and the introduction of Presidents and delegates of National Councils, invited speakers, and others to their British hostesses would take place at a reunion to be organised by Miss Isla Stewart at St. Bartholomew's Hospital on the evening of the 19th July.

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