

The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

The annual meeting of the above Council was held on Friday, November 4th, at 431, Oxford Street, at 4 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, upon taking the chair, read a letter of regret from Miss Cutler, the Hon. Secretary, expressing regret at not being able to be present owing to hospital duty. Miss M. Breay then read the minutes, which were confirmed.

Rising, the President said: "Before reporting on the work which was referred to the Council by Resolutions passed at the International Congress of Nurses in 1909, I desire to express our sense of the irreparable loss which has been sustained by the nurses of the world by the deaths of Miss Isla Stewart, Mrs. Hampton Robb, and Miss Florence Nightingale, and I would ask you to signify our sorrow by a rising and silent vote!"

"I hope that this Council will help to perpetuate the memory of Miss Isla Stewart by some special form of commemoration entirely its own."

Those present then rose, and, having resumed their seats, the following Report was presented:—

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

I.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD OF NURSING EDUCATION.

In accordance with a Resolution passed at the International Congress of Nurses, an International Committee for the Organisation of an International Standard of Nursing Education was founded, of which the late Mrs. Hampton Robb was appointed Chairman and Miss J. C. van Lanschot-Hubrecht Hon. Secretary. Miss van Lanschot-Hubrecht has forwarded a memorandum in regard to preliminary education for nurses, concerning which information is sought by this Committee, through the various National Councils, which will be submitted for your consideration at a later stage.

II.

MENTAL NURSING.

It was proposed that, in view of the introduction of a Nurses' Registration Bill into the House of Commons, those responsible for the education and examination of mental nurses should convene a conference on mental nursing in London. This, so far, has not been done.

III.

MORALITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The third Resolution advised that in every country there should be a Standing Committee on Public Health. The Hon. Albinia Brodrick early in the year accepted the chairmanship of a proposed Committee to deal with the question of morality and public health, but finds it impossible to carry on the duties of this office in conjunction with her

hospital work in the West of Ireland. Great interest, however, has been aroused in this important question. Miss Brodrick's paper on "Morality in Relation to Health," read at the International Congress of Nurses last year, has been reprinted in pamphlet form, and Miss L. L. Dock has published a book, "Hygiene and Morality," admirably adapted for the use of nurses and others interested in this question, which vitally affects the health of the nation. An admirable paper appeared in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of September 3rd, 1910, on "Nurses as Health Missioners," by Miss M. Burr, and Miss E. L. C. Eden, Central Organiser of the Nurses' Social Union, has also published a pamphlet entitled "Suggestions for Nurses on some Special Points in connection with Moral and Physical Health," which is being eagerly bought at home and in the United States. The question has also been brought before the National Union of Women Workers through its Rescue Committee, with the result that a private conference on "Hygiene in Relation to Rescue Work" is to be held at Caxton Hall on November 24th, for which tickets can be obtained by trained nurses.

The widespread prevalence of gonorrhoeal vaginitis among young children recently revealed in connection with the infection of children at a Hospital for Sick Children shows that this disease is a menace to the national health, and that measures to combat it are an urgent necessity.

IV.

NURSING IN PRISONS.

In connection with the Prison Nursing Standing Committee, I have been in communication with several ladies on the subject of prison nursing. The Penal Reform League has as its fifth object "Action for the better selection and training of staff and general raising of their status and ideals." It might be advisable to ask this League to co-operate with this Council to carry into effect our suggestion that prison officials should receive systematic instruction in the elements of general and personal hygiene and in the underlying principles of physical and psychical nursing, and that the position of Matron in His Majesty's prisons should be held by a certificated nurse.

Recent legislation has indicated a desire on the part of the Government to ameliorate the condition of prisoners. In this connection the Penal Reform League will hold its annual meeting on November 29th at Caxton Hall, at 8 p.m., when Captain Arthur J. St. John, the Hon. Secretary, who recently attended the International Prison Congress at Washington to study American methods, preventive and reformatory, will give an account of his impressions. As this meeting is open to visitors those interested can be present.

V.

FORMATION OF NEW LEAGUES AND ASSOCIATIONS.

Since the last meeting of the Council three Leagues of Nurses have been formed—one upon the initiative of Miss Cox-Davies, Matron of the Royal Free Hospital, for Royal Free nurses; one by Miss Elma Smith, Matron of the Hendon Branch of the Central London Sick Asylum; and one by Miss

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)