

The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the above Council was held on Saturday, July 22nd, at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., at 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in the chair, and was followed by a meeting of the Council at 4 p.m. After the minutes had been confirmed, a Report was adopted for presentation to the Council, and officers were nominated for election.

THE GRAND COUNCIL MEETING.

The President presided, and the following business was transacted.

After letters of regret at non-attendance had been notified the following Report from the Executive Committee was considered and adopted:—

THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

THE NURSING PAGEANT.

During the past year the Council carried out with great success the Nursing Pageant, which was held in London on February 18th. This Pageant and Masque, which was designed by the President, and of which the words were written by Miss Mollett, was reported fully in our official organ, the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*, and has called forth from every country interested in the organisation of nursing very eulogistic expressions of approbation; from Fraulein Karl, Germany, where the words of the Masque have been translated into German; from Professor Nutting and Miss L. L. Dock in the United States; from Canada, India, Holland, France; and in nearly every Nurses' Journal published abroad the kindest congratulations have been expressed.

NIGHTINGALE MEMORIAL FUND.

Within the year the death of our great pioneer, Miss Florence Nightingale, has been universally lamented, and the nurses of the world naturally desired to do all in their power to commemorate the genius of this great teacher. It is greatly to be regretted that, by the action of the Committee formed at St. Thomas' Hospital, this Council was purposely excluded from representation on the Nightingale Memorial Committee — an action which was much resented by various national organisations in sympathy with our work, and which have therefore held aloof from supporting the Memorial.

TRIENNIAL MEETING, INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Letters have been received from Sister Agnes Karl, President, and Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Secretary, International Council of Nurses, and Miss Lanschot Hubrecht, Hon. Secretary of the International Standard of Nursing Committee, which will be laid before the Council.

NATIONAL INSURANCE BILL.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Right Hon. D. Lloyd George, introduced the National

Insurance Bill into the House of Commons on May 4th, 1911. A consensus of opinion condemned the treatment of women under the Bill, and your President therefore thought it her duty to call a public meeting to discuss the position of nurses. This meeting was addressed by Mr. D. F. Penant, Hon. Secretary, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, from whose address it was apparent that certain clauses in the Bill would be most injurious to the interests of nurses. A small committee of nurses was appointed, of which your President has acted as Chairman, which has communicated with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and various Members of Parliament, and helped, materially, in the elimination of one exceedingly detrimental sub-section which would have deprived nurses of the Insurance money for which they had paid if they accepted board and lodging from their employers, such as hospital committees, etc.

NURSING IN AMERICA AND STATE REGISTRATION.

On July 21st, at a hastily convened meeting at the Medical Society's Rooms, W., English nurses had the pleasure of hearing a most striking and convincing address from Dr. Winford H. Smith, Superintendent of the Johns Hopkins' Hospital, Baltimore, U.S.A.; who spoke on Nursing in America and State Registration.

THE NIGHTINGALE MEMORIAL FUND.

The whole correspondence between the Secretary of the Council and the Nightingale Memorial Committee, requesting that "National Societies of Nurses" should be represented on the Committee, was laid before the Council. In reply to this request, signed by the sixteen Presidents of affiliated societies, Mr. J. G. Wainwright, Treasurer, St. Thomas' Hospital, stated on November 30th, 1910, that "it is felt that your Society would fully recognise the difficulty of including every society, and the selection of any would be an invidious task."

On December 2nd, 1910, a letter was addressed by Mr. Wainwright to the large majority of the sixteen signatories to our Council's letter, inviting them individually to join the Committee, thus making an invidious selection.

A meeting of the Presidents of affiliated societies was held in London, and the following letter was sent to Mr. Wainwright for the Nightingale Memorial Fund Committee:—

Sir,—Your letter containing the reply of the Executive Committee of the Nurses' Nightingale Memorial Fund was considered very carefully by a Committee of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, on Saturday, December 10th, and I am directed to call their attention to the fact that my Committee only desired that National Societies of Nurses, of which there are very few, should be represented, and therefore the difficulty of selection, to which you allude in your communication, could not arise.

The Committee deeply regretted that your Committee has declined to give representation to the

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