

## THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual Meeting of the National Council of Trained Nurses was held at the Office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on December 3rd. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick presided, and Miss Cutler, the Hon. Secretary, presented an interesting report of the year's work, much of which has already been published in this journal, the official organ of the National Council. Both the Report, and the Financial Report presented by Miss Christina Forrest were adopted.

The President said that the great war touched every section of the community, and no section more nearly, both professionally and economically, than trained nurses. She read a letter from Miss L. L. Dock, the Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, in which she stated "that the prospects get blacker and blacker. It really looks as if the various (male) nations of Europe were in a frenzied sort of contagious insanity—homicidal mania. What is going to be left out of the general wreck?" Miss Dock went on to say that Miss Goodrich, the President, had suggested that a definite statement should be made that there will be no international meeting at San Francisco in June, 1915. From Canada, New Zealand, and other parts of the world had come an intimation—"the war ends all our plans." Miss Dock said further that times are very bad in America, people out of work and capital scared. Revenues are short, and Congress has to declare a war tax, as if it was at war itself. Besides that, the whole world is appealing to America for help, piteous appeals, starving Belgians, destitute women and children in France, troubles in Turkey and Armenia. The Red Cross is filling the air with heartrending appeals. "All good causes at home are stopped or hampered by need of funds; charities are penniless."

After considering Miss Dock's letter it was unanimously agreed that the National Council of Great Britain and Ireland should advise the International Executive that the Meeting of the International Council of Nurses do not take place at San Francisco in 1915, but that the Triennial Meeting be postponed until 1916—or later, when the nurses of the world could gather together in kinship for mutual counsel and support, as on all previous meetings of the International Federation.

The President then summarised a Report from Miss L. L. Dock on the Nurses' International Memorial to Miss Florence Night-

ingale, in which she explained the steps taken by her in relation to the foundation of a Chair of Nursing at Bedford College, London, and the action of the Nightingale Fund "in stealing their thunder" by inaugurating a Scholarship Fund at King's College for Women, adapted from their Teachers' College Course at Columbia University, New York. The President regretted that the Nightingale Fund Council had thought fit to secretly establish their Course at King's College whilst negotiations were in process at a Sister College, but thought that her suggestion to endow a Chair of Nursing in London would ultimately be established. They could not lag behind America for ever. The nursing profession was very poor, and many subsidized scholarships would be required to maintain a Chair of Nursing in London, so that no doubt in the future, when nursing had been recognised by the State, and the nurses had been given power to further their professional aspirations, the Nightingale Scholarships would be available for the general educational advance of nursing. In the meantime, it was suggested that during the war the appeal for funds to found the Chair should be in abeyance, and should be continued in more prosperous times. At the present crisis every penny of their money was needed for helping schemes for the care and comfort of their valiant troops, and no one was giving more generously of work and money, according to their means, than the members of the nursing profession. Their very best work was the finest memorial to Florence Nightingale which the profession could offer at the moment.

It was agreed to defer collecting for the fund until after the war.

### DANGER OF UNTRAINED NURSES FOR THE SICK AND WOUNDED.

A discussion took place on the nursing of sick and wounded in war, and opinions were emphatically expressed that the most skilled nursing should invariably be at the disposal of the troops. Those present felt strongly that the present conditions of nursing in many of the military auxiliary hospitals, at home and abroad, were to be severely condemned, that the trained staff was often insufficient, and that under unprofessional matrons and lady superintendents the discipline in these hospitals left much to be desired. Ultimately the following resolution was carried unanimously, and a copy has been sent to the Secretary of State for War:—

#### RESOLUTION.

The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, in Annual Meeting

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