

St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, Rochester, were considered, and both societies admitted with great pleasure. The President proposed that the preferential treatment accorded to the Matrons' Council and the Irish Nurses' Association, both nationally organised, should be extended to the National Union of Trained Nurses. This provided that the President for the time being of the Union would have a seat on the Executive Committee and rank as an Hon. Officer. This was unanimously agreed to, the opinion being expressed that solidarity of the nurses' organisations at this crisis was imperative. The President reported that two more Leagues of Nurses were in process of organisation and hoped to apply for affiliation at an early date.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

A few minor amendments to the constitution were considered and agreed to.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. HENNY TSCHERNING.

Miss Heather-Bigg proposed that the congratulations of the Council should be sent to Mrs. Henny Tscherning, President of the International Council of Nurses, who had recently been decorated with the Cross of the Legion of Honour by the French Government in recognition of her splendid work for sick and wounded French soldiers, carried on at the Danish Hospital in Paris. This was carried by acclamation.

The President reported that Miss Dock, the Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, saw no hope of holding the meeting of the Council in Denmark in 1918, as approved at San Francisco. The meeting agreed regretfully that during the period of this terrible war such an international meeting was impossible.

The meeting then terminated.

BEATRICE CUTLER,
Hon. Secretary.

THE ASSOCIATION OF POOR LAW UNIONS AND REGISTRATION.

At a meeting of the Executive Council of the Association of Poor Law Unions, held at the Connaught Rooms, London, W.C., on Wednesday, November 22nd, the proposed Nurses' Registration Bill of the College of Nursing was considered, together with the attitude to be adopted by the Association, and a Report adopted for presentation to the Annual Meeting on the following day.

The Council decided (1) that the Association can, with advantage, sympathetically consider the objects of the College, with a view to active co-operation, subject to such proposals and conditions as may be necessary in order to safeguard Poor Law interests in the matter, and effect equalization of the Nursing Service; (2) that Poor Law interests can only be properly safeguarded by representation on the Nursing Council

of persons directly appointed by the Council of the Association of Poor Law Unions; (3) that the number of representatives of the Training Schools of General Hospitals and of Poor Law Authorities should not be less than one-third of the whole number of such Council; (4) that one-half of the representatives of the Training Schools upon the proposed Council should be representative of Training Schools of Poor Law Authorities; (5) that the conditions of registration at present existing as regards the College of Nursing should be revised so as to provide that for the registration of existing nurses, until the expiration of three years from the passing of the proposed Nurses' Registration Act, any nurse holding a certificate of a Training School recognized by the Local Government Board should be entitled to be registered; (6) that any Training School for Nurses sanctioned by the Local Government Board should be recognized as a Training School for the purposes of the College of Nursing.

On the following day, this report was presented to the annual meeting, supplementing Clause XIX of the Report of the Executive Council, the last section of which runs, "The Council also instructed their Parliamentary Committee to take all necessary steps to safeguard the interests, not only of Poor Law Institutions, which are recognized as Training Schools, but also the interests of those Poor Law Institutions in which nurses are satisfactorily trained, but which, on technical grounds, do not come within the description of 'Training School.'" Consideration was postponed.

At Friday's meeting, the President, Sir John Spear, called on Alderman F. J. Beavan to move the adoption of the report, but, on his suggestion, Mr. H. List (Croydon), Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, undertook this duty and made a general statement on the question, and also on the deputation of the Parliamentary Bills Committee to the Hon. Arthur Stanley. He said in this relation that they must not allow anything disadvantageous to one class, and whenever legislation was enacted, nothing prejudicial to Poor Law nurses or Poor Law interests must be permitted. What struck them as most curious was that the College of Nursing became established without any reference to Poor Law Authorities. Some people suggested that this was done purposely, and that the College was hostile to Poor Law interests. He would not say that, although subsequent proceedings seemed to favour that view. He contended that the Poor Law interests, regarded from the number of beds, were the largest concerned, and also commented on the fact that, whereas a general hospital of 40 beds might be recognised as a training school, a Poor Law school must have 250. He indicated the lines on which co-operation of Poor Law authorities might be possible, and their minimum requirements.

The Chairman laid stress on the fact that Mr. Stanley had told the deputation that he hoped the Local Government Board would take up the Bill.

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