

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The Annual Meeting of the Council was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, on Saturday, 15th inst., Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, in the Chair. The Minutes were read by Miss B. Cutler, Hon. Sec., and signed, and a number of letters of regret for inability to attend were also read.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

The President, in a brief report, stated that owing to absorption in war work, the Council had taken no active part in nursing organization during the year. She touched on the progress of nursing politics, which had been fully reported in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING during the year. Owing to the war, international amenities had ceased for the time being, but it was hoped that when peace was declared, the old enjoyable activities would be resumed.

THE HON. TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Report of the Hon. Treasurer, in her absence, was presented. It showed a balance of £19 12s. 5d., and in accepting it the Council passed a vote of thanks to Miss Christina Forrest for her management of the finances.

ELECTION OF HON. OFFICERS.

President.—The only nomination for the office of President was Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who was re-elected unanimously for another term of three years. Miss Heather-Bigg, who occupied the chair for the election, conveyed to Mrs. Fenwick the thanks of the Council for services rendered.

Hon. Treasurer.—Miss Christina Forrest was re-elected for the term of one year.

Hon. Secretary.—Miss Beatrice Cutler was re-elected for a term of one year. The President expressed the appreciation of the Council for the loyal and kind manner in which these two ladies had served the Council.

Vice-President.—Miss Elma Smith was elected Vice-President in the place of Miss Cox-Davies, retired.

Directors.—Miss Helen Pearse and Miss Dowbiggin were elected as Directors, in the places of Miss A. Smith and Miss Elma Smith, whose term of office had expired.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN WORKERS.

In response to an invitation from the National Union of Women Workers, with which the Council is affiliated, to appoint representatives, the following appointments were made to Sectional Committees:—

To the Legislation Committee, Miss Le Geyt, League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses.

To the Public Health Committee, Miss H. Hawkins, P.L.G. League of St. John's House Nurses.

To the International Committee, Miss B. Kent,

the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

RESIGNATIONS.

The following letters were received:—

League of Royal Free Hospital Nurses,
Royal Free Hospital, W.C.

"DEAR MADAM,—At a General Business Meeting of the above League it was decided to discontinue the affiliation of the League with the National Council of Trained Nurses owing to the attitude adopted by the Council towards the College of Nursing.

Yours faithfully,

ISOBEL YULE, *Hon. Sec.*

Chelsea Infirmary, Cale Street, S.W.

DEAR MISS CUTLER,—I have received the notice of the meeting on the 15th of the N.C.T.N., and would be glad if you would kindly accept my resignation. After consulting the Executive Committee of our League they also wish to withdraw from the Council.

Yours very truly,

E. C. BARTON.

The withdrawal of the League of Royal Free Hospital Nurses and the Chelsea Infirmary Nurses' League from affiliation with the National Council was directed to be recorded. The President pointed out that both Miss Cox-Davies and Miss Barton, the Presidents of the two Leagues, had accepted nomination on the Council of the College of Nursing Limited, and had taken a very active part in support of the Company. She also pointed out that the Constitution of the National Council provided for the affiliation only of professional, self-governing societies of trained nurses, and that there had been no alteration either in its constitution or policy since the seceding Leagues had joined it. The Presidents of the seceding Leagues were supporting the organization and government of professional nurses by a Limited Liability Company of laymen (the Executive Officers of which were all men) financed by public charity. The National Council, as such, had taken no part in the controversy during the past two years, as the interests of professional nurses were being safeguarded by other organizations; but she was personally strongly opposed to the developed policy of the College of Nursing, Ltd., which she considered entirely unprofessional, tending to economic dependence, and calculated through a charitable appeal of a Committee of actresses to bring professional nurses into contempt in the body politic. The President said further that she considered the policy of the College calculated to betray the highest interests of the Nursing Profession, the members of which should be encouraged to think for themselves and be free from official coercion. Dependence and charity were, in her opinion, calculated to degrade any body of working women, and she was glad to know that the principles of co-operation, self-support and independence, on which the National Council was founded and which it

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