

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES.

MEMBERS TO MEET IN CONFERENCE.

The Constitution of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland (which is affiliated to the International Council of Nurses, founded by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in 1899) provides for the holding of Conferences of the members of all the affiliated societies, and the Hon. Officers of the National Council are of opinion that such a Conference, which has not been held for some time, would be opportune at an early date.

The National Council is governed by the Grand Council, composed of delegates appointed by the affiliated societies, and of the Hon. Officers, and consultation between these delegates and the members would appear to be necessary this year, as the Triennial Meeting of the International Council is to be held in Finland the year after next.

Membership of the National Council of Trained Nurses is strictly confined to societies of Trained Nurses, so that the basic principle of professional solidarity is secured in both National and the International Councils.

Of late years so many organisations have associated trained nurses, in which their professional opinion is submerged and out-voted, that it is imperative that trained nurses in every country should realise the vital importance to their status of having at least one National Association "all their own," through which, following the precedent of the medical and other professions, they can federate internationally, and be free to form, express, and enforce professional opinion, untrammelled by ulterior influences.

There are quite a number of vital questions for the welfare of the profession, and the public, which it is the duty of the National Council of Great Britain and Ireland to consider, in the forefront of which we place:—

(1) The present International Outlook on Nursing.

(2) Suggestions for the extended usefulness of the National Council.

(3) Suggestions for consideration at the Meeting of the International Council of Nurses in 1925.

(4) The attempt upon the part of the majority of the new General Nursing Council for England and Wales, to deprive general trained nurses of their right to a statutory "prescribed scheme of training," as granted to them by Parliament in the Nurses' Registration Acts, 1919.

It has been suggested that a whole-day Con-

ference be held. The Hon. Secretary will therefore be pleased to receive suggestions, from Secretaries of affiliated Societies, of matters the members desire discussed, and of offers of hospitality for those attending from the country or from abroad.

Address the Hon. Secretary, National Council of Trained Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1.

REGISTERED NURSES' PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL.

Councillor Beatrice Kent presided at the meeting of the above Council held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on March 23rd.

After the minutes had been read, Mrs. Fenwick rose with a copy of the First State Register of Nurses in her hand, and with the consent of the Chair, proposed that those present should, by a rising vote, put on record their gratitude to their comrades, and to the memory of those passed away, who had toiled and paid for this great reform, and congratulation to the Nursing Profession upon the publication of the State Register of Nurses. By a rising vote this resolution was put on record, and the chairman offered to Mrs. Fenwick an expression of warm appreciation for her leadership which had gained them the victory.

The State Register handsomely bound in scarlet cloth boards, lettered in gold, printed in good bold type, as proposed by Mrs. Fenwick, when a member of the General Nursing Council, was generally admired, and those present realised that when the Register contained—as it would do at no distant date—the names of 50,000 Registered Nurses, the powers conferred by the Nurses' Registration Act on the Nursing Profession would become a practical reality.

Important business was transacted, and hearty votes of thanks unanimously agreed to be sent to Major R. W. Barnett, M.P., for his recent services in Parliament in placing before the House of Commons amendments to the autocratic "prescribed scheme" for the election of Registered Nurses on to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and thereby securing consideration of these amendments by agreement in the House with the Minister of Health, who undertook to have the "prescribed scheme" and amendments referred for further consideration to the General Nursing Council, when, if approved by him, it should again be laid on the table of the House. A vote of thanks was also accorded to Mr. R. Richardson, M.P., for seconding Major Barnett's motion.

Miss Stewart Bryson made a satisfactory report on the organisation of the Fever Nurses' Section of the Council.

New members were elected, and the Council approved, as a constituent society, of a Conference of the National Council of Trained Nurses being held at an early date.

MARGARET BREAY,
Hon. Secretary.

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