

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

A meeting of the Grand Council of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland was held on Friday, November 9th, at 431, Oxford Street, W.

The President (Mrs. Bedford Fenwick) was in the Chair.

### NEW HONORARY OFFICERS.

The Minutes having been read and signed a letter from Miss Isabel Macdonald, S.R.N., was considered. Miss Macdonald resigned with much regret the position of Hon. Secretary to the Council, as her duties as Secretary to the Royal British Nurses' Association and of its Club, and as Hon. Secretary of the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund, left her no time to do justice to the National Council. The resignation was received with sincere regret, the President remarking that those present were well aware of the almost overwhelming amount of work accomplished by Miss Macdonald in the best interests of the profession. Under the circumstances she had approached Miss Helen L. Pearse, who had taken for many years a deep interest in International Nursing, attending nursing conferences abroad, and who had consented to accept office if elected.

Miss Pearse, who was present, was unanimously elected Hon. Secretary of the National Council, and thanked her colleagues for their confidence.

Miss Isabel Macdonald was then elected to a vacancy as a Director of the Council, with applause.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

Many communications were reported, or placed before the Council for consideration. One, from the Privy Council *re* Modification Rule, notifying that the King in Council had agreed to the humble Address of the House of Commons to amend Rule 9 (1) (g) and thus make untrained women eligible for registration on the General Part of the Register, upon the recommendation of persons not members of the General Nursing Council.

The President reported that the members of the Privy Council who considered the Address were by no means unanimously in favour of it, and that the General Nursing Council in its deplorable weakness had proved itself quite unable to protect the pledges made to, and interests of Existing Nurses registered under the 1921 Statutory Rules, or to maintain its own right and dignity under the Nurses' Registration Act. Had the Council acted with knowledge and decision the degradation of the General Part of the Register would never have been effected upon the initiative taken by Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and effected through Dr. Chapple, M.P.; a Rule granting power to the Council to consider hard cases was all that was necessary. The General Nursing Council, in its ignorant self-sufficiency, was totally unfit to govern the Nursing Profession.

### SOCIAL SERVICE.

Delegates were appointed to take part in the work of Social Service Organisations and Miss Helen L. Pearse was elected to act on the Executive Committee of the proposed School of Nursing and Child Welfare for Russia, of which Sir William Hale-White, K.B.E., M.D., President of the Royal Society of Medicine, is Chairman, and Miss M. A. Payne, S.R.N., Hon. Secretary.

The President remarked in this connection that it had always been the policy of the National Council to sympathise with, and advance to the best of its ability, all schemes for the promotion of nursing throughout the world.

### AFFILIATED SOCIETIES' DELEGATES.

It was reported that the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council had nominated Miss S. M. Marsters, S.R.N., and Miss M. Drakard, S.R.N., as its two delegates on the Council. These ladies were unanimously elected.

The Registered Nurses' Society, owing to the death of Sister Tudor and serious illness of Sister Cartwright, nominated Miss Julia Hurlston, S.R.N., and Miss G. M. Dunsford, S.R.N., A.R.R.C., to fill the vacancies, and these ladies were elected.

### APPLICATION FOR AFFILIATION.

The application for affiliation from the Prince of Wales General Hospital, Tottenham, Nurses' League, was received, and was unanimously approved. The President of the League, Miss E. T. Bickerton, R.R.C., is already a Director of the Council, and the two following members, who had been nominated, were elected as delegates, Miss F. Toms and Miss G. Collins.

### A DELEGATE FUND.

The President brought the matter of raising an International Delegate Fund before the meeting. She reported that in the past the four official delegates of the Council had invariably paid their own expenses when attending the Meetings and Conferences of the International Council of Nurses, and that twice recently there had been meetings called at Copenhagen, which had occasioned a very serious financial strain on the ladies who generously attended at their own expense. Mrs. Fenwick was of opinion that a special fund should be raised before 1925, when the International would meet at Helsingfors, to help defray the expenses of the most representative women (who might not have the wherewithal) whom the Council wished to represent them.

Rich and powerful organisations supported by public funds, had recently defrayed the expenses of persons they wished to attend International meetings. The National Council of Great Britain, as a self-governing professional organisation, must jealously guard its independence, and nurses were wonderful people for raising funds in support of their aspirations.

This proposal was warmly received, and it was agreed that a sub-committee composed of Miss Bickerton, Miss I. Macdonald, and Miss Drakard

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