

Buffalo, Berlin, Paris, London and Cologne, we have had present as fraternal delegates distinguished medical practitioners, and lay men and women, on the invitation of the Council, who have added both to the profit and pleasure of these Conferences. The Council has, in short, extended every courtesy to fellow-workers interested in the national health, and the progress of nursing, and this custom the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland desires to see perpetuated; but it is most strongly of opinion that there should be no *fusion* with societies other than the self-governing duly accredited National Councils of Nurses. It further considers that it is entirely through the strength and prestige of professional organisation that our nurses reach the position, dignity, and influence which enables them to be useful in mixed organisations.

2. *The Nursing Division of the League of Red Cross Societies and the European Council for Nursing Education.*

The possible co-operation mentioned with the Nursing Division of the League of Red Cross Societies, which is not a society of nurses, can best be effected by this Nursing Division interesting the trained nurses, with whom it is in touch in the various European countries, to request the appointment of Hon. Vice-Presidents (Article 2 (4)) until such time as National Associations of Nurses, whose constitution is in harmony with the International are organised, and eligible for affiliation with it. The same remark applies to the European Council for Nursing Education.

3. *Committee on Nursing Education.*

In regard to the reconstruction of "The International Committee on Nursing Education," we desire to point out that Professor Adelaide Nutting, of Teachers College, Columbia University, U.S.A., is Chairman of this Committee, and that therefore it would be only courteous to consult with her before recommending the reconstruction of the Committee, which should, in our opinion, include an expert nominee from each affiliated National Council.

4. *The Autonomy of the National Councils of Nurses.*

In regard to the standing of the "International Council of Nurses" towards the "College of Nursing, Ltd." (Great Britain and Ireland)—and of which copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association are sent herewith—which is a limited company of laymen licensed by our Board of Trade, this item, does not seem to be in order on the Agenda, since all societies desiring affiliation with the International Council must first be accepted by the National Council of the country in which they are situated. We do not know whether any application has been made direct to the International Council of Nurses by the authorities of the "College of Nursing, Ltd." for admission into the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, but if so it is an act of the gravest discourtesy for any such society to ignore the National Council of its own country and endeavour to obtain association with the International Council without approaching it through the recognised official channel, and we are strongly of opinion that the only constitutional procedure for the Hon. Officials and Executive Committee of the International Council is to inform the College of Nursing, Ltd. that the International Council has no jurisdiction in this matter.

At the same time we desire to emphasize that the present constitution of the College of Nursing, Ltd., is not in harmony with that of the International Council of Nurses, inasmuch as it is a limited company composed of laymen, which admits nurses to membership, together with medical and other lay persons, it is

therefore not a self-governing organisation of Trained Nurses, and it would seem impossible for it to alter this constitution without actually dissolving the company.

The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland takes strong exception in this connection to interference with its autonomy. Such a policy can only be productive of friction and disorganisation. The vital principle of the autonomy of our National Council affects the status of every affiliated Council, and our Council would offer most strenuous resistance to any attempt to deprive it of self-determination.

5. *A Larger Headquarters.*

The question of the Headquarters of the International Council of Nurses must be decided at the Triennial Meeting, as the present Headquarters in London, where the International Council of Nurses was founded, was approved by the Council, and heretofore always appeared on the official notepaper. Any recommendation for a change of address must therefore come before the Triennial Meeting for its decision.

6. *Financial Independence.*

In regard to broadening the activities of the International Council, this is, no doubt, desirable, but must be governed by the means at its disposal. Hitherto the Council has done much useful work, has preserved its independence, and paid its way, and while no doubt it might gratefully accept gifts *unconditionally placed at its disposal*, it should not entertain any proposition which would entail a loss of independence as the price of fusion with non-professional organisations.

7. *An International Nursing Journal.*

The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland is of opinion that a Nursing Journal to be of any value must reflect nursing opinion, and must therefore be owned, controlled and edited by professional persons, as are the majority of the official organs of the National Councils of Nurses. An official organ of the International Council could only maintain professional solidarity and liberty of expression on the same basis.

It would appear that should the Triennial Meeting agree to issue such a publication, an International Journal Committee should be appointed.

In Great Britain and Ireland nursing organisation and education have been obstructed for thirty years through an unscrupulous lay-edited nursing press controlled by employers.

Such publications are a very serious peril to personal and professional liberty.

8. *Recommendation.*

In conclusion, the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland would suggest that a round table Conference be held in London at a convenient date, to carefully consider all proposals put forward officially to extend the useful activities of the International Council of Nurses, and to submit recommendations to the Executive Committee in time for circulation in accordance with the Constitution (Article 10) to the Affiliated National Councils at least three months prior to the Triennial Meeting in 1925.

Signed on behalf of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

ETHEL G. FENWICK, *President.*

431, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.

The endorsement of the contents of the Statement submitted by the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland was approved, leaving open the question of a possible Conference

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