

## NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

### THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

The International Council of Nurses owes much to its late Hon. Secretary, Miss L. L. Dock, not only for her invaluable secretarial work, but also for her generous financial support. Miss Dock, as many of our readers know, generously gives to its funds her Royalties on the third and fourth volumes of "A History of Nursing." The Hon. Treasurer has just received through the publishers, Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons, a cheque for the Royalties for the period from July, 1923, to January, 1924, which amount to 31 dollars 71 cents, a sum which is estimated by the bankers to realise about £7 when collected from America.

### THE IRISH MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Irish Matrons' Association was held at Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin, on April 3rd, when Miss Thornton very kindly entertained the members to tea. The educational standard for would-be probationers was discussed, and Miss Hill invited the members to meet at the Adelaide Hospital on June 26th. A very important step was taken in deciding to discuss the formation of a National Council of Trained Nurses for Ireland.

Irish Matrons and Nurses have always shown an intelligent interest in the far-reaching work of the International Council of Nurses. At present the Matrons are affiliated to it through the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, but now that Southern Ireland is a Free State, there is no doubt it should have its own National Council as other Overseas Dominions have; and let us hope they will be ready to come into the International Council direct when it meets at Helsingfors next year. Anyway, that is the sincere hope of the Founder of the International, whose relations with Irish Nurses have always been of the happiest nature. Bright, generous women organised into a National Council—they would receive a warm welcome into the International, and help to enliven its deliberations.

### THE L.C.C. NURSES' SOCIAL UNION.

The members of the above Union, which is affiliated to the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, are already beginning to consider the ways and means of sending a representative to the meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Helsingfors next year. They estimate that if each nurse gives 1s. for two years this, with a staff of 300, will produce £30, so their representative seems secure. We hope other Leagues are making calculations.

### THE REGISTERED NURSES' PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL.

A Meeting of the R.N.P.C. was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on April 3rd, the President, Councillor Beatrice Kent, in the Chair.

The Meeting had been specially called to receive a Report of the Deputation from the Council received by the Right Hon. J. Wheatley, P.C., M.P., Minister of Health, and to consider Resolutions.

*Correspondence.*—A great number of letters were reported from the Minister of Health and other Government Departments, and from Members of Parliament, and Sir George Newman, on the Nursing Question, inquiry into which the Council is desirous that action should be taken.

From the Comptroller of His Royal Highness the Duke of York, in reply to the Council's objection to the depreciation of the professional status of nursing through charity balls and appeals of the Nation's Fund for Nurses—to which through the British Red Cross Society the Duke and Duchess of York had given their patronage—thus undermining the economic stability of the Nursing Profession.

From the Conference Secretary of the International Council of Women, informing the Council that a number of international societies have already intimated their intention of being represented at the Conference at Wembley on the Prevention of the Causes of War, and stating that they would welcome individual members of the Council as well as the official delegate, Miss M. Brey.

### Report of Deputation to Minister of Health

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick gave an exhaustive report of the Deputation to the Minister of Health, which he courteously received at the Ministry on March 11th, a full report of which appeared in the April issue of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Major Barnett, M.P., who introduced the Deputation, had received a communication from the Minister of Health, which, though not marked confidential, he considered should not be published at present. Major Barnett expressed the opinion that he considered the reply very satisfactory, and he had acknowledged it in suitable terms.

Mrs. Fenwick read the letter from the Minister, and after discussion the Council decided to give further explanation to the Minister of underlying principles, productive in its opinion, of economic servitude of the Nursing Profession from the policy of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and the Nation's Fund for Nurses, constantly begging in its name.

The Council also agreed upon its future action—in petitioning for a Select Committee of Inquiry into the whole Nursing Question—so that more effective organisation might be inaugurated for systematic education and just economic conditions for the Nursing Profession, as the futility of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales had failed to utilise the Nurses' Registration Act for its benefit, and so far had prevented effective organisation of professional education, by depriving nurses in training of a "prescribed scheme" of education as provided for in the Nurses' Registration Act.

### RESOLUTIONS.

The Council agreed unanimously to the following Resolutions:—

1. That a vote of thanks be accorded to Miss A. M. Bushby for opposing, in Council, the practical control of the Mental Nurses' Register by an outside body of Medical Superintendents, who had been given power to nominate all examiners—a responsibility granted by Parliament to members of the General Nursing Council, and which it was their duty to retain.

2. That a vote of thanks be accorded to Miss Maud Wiese for refusing to be censured *in camera*, upon the initiative of Dr. Goodall, and for demanding that his attack upon her should be made in public, and for retaining her right, if attacked *in camera*, to make the proceedings public, which she did.

3. That Mr. Donaldson, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the G.N.C., be urged to take immediate steps to have the accounts of the Council audited and a balance sheet presented, as in the opinion of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, the huge expenditure under certain departments, such as the maintenance of a staff of 43 clerical workers, is excessive, and the whole Headquarters Office, under the present lack of system, requires drastic curtailment, and to be organised on a business basis.

4. That a protest be sent to the General Nursing Council against applicants being kept waiting, some for twelve months, for registration, thus depriving well-trained nurses of legal status, without which they are unable to obtain professional posts applied for.

Members present were urged to make the work of the R.N.P.C. known amongst nurses, and for their own protection to urge them to become members, so that they might influence public opinion and Parliament, the subscription being only 1s. annually.

The Meeting then terminated.

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