

NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The annual meeting of delegates of the N.C.T.N. was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Saturday, November 15th. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the president, was in the Chair, and there was a good attendance. After the re-election of honorary officers—Miss H. L. Pearse as honorary secretary, Miss M. Breay as honorary treasurer, and of Miss Pell-Smith as Vice-President in place of Miss G. A. Rogers, the principal business was to consider communications from Miss C. Reimann, the honorary secretary of the International Council of Nurses. The meeting had before it a draft amended Constitution, and an exhaustive *questionnaire* on nursing conditions in England, copies of which had been sent to Miss M. S. Donaldson, matron, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, and to Miss Huxley, Dublin—and to the Minister of Health (Belfast) for Northern Ireland.

The Amended Constitution of the I.C.N.

The draft amended Constitution was considered clause by clause, and voted upon, and it was agreed that the unanimous conclusions of the National Council on each clause should be forwarded, with an explanatory précis, to Miss Reimann. The basic principle of self-determination upon which the International Council of Nurses was founded in London in 1909, was incorporated in the following resolution, supported unanimously by every delegate at the meeting, and it was directed that it should be sent to Miss Reimann for insertion on the Agenda for the meeting of the Grand Council to be held at Helsingfors in July, 1925. The policy of the International Council hitherto in force, in co-operating sympathetically with the medical profession and the laity was reaffirmed; but fusion with joint lay and professional organisations was strongly opposed, as it was considered any such fusion was calculated to submerge the trained nurse in her own International Federation.

Resolution.

That the autonomy of the International Council of Nurses as an organisation of trained nurses, be strictly maintained, by the affiliation only, as at present, of National Organisations entirely composed of trained nurses.

That in the opinion of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, any other basis of organisation is subversive of the self-determination and of the freedom of conscience, speech and action, of nurses composing the International Council, and would depreciate the value of its deliberations and determinations as a Professional Organisation.

The Questionnaire.

The correspondence with the Rt. Hon. J. Wheatley, late Minister of Health, in reply to inquiries as to information obtainable on National Nursing in his department, was placed before the meeting, and regret expressed that, apparently, the State department, the Ministry of Health, does not at present possess the necessary information required to reply to the *questionnaire*, and the hope was expressed that, as the new Minister of Health, the Right Hon. Neville Chamberlain, had already stated that it is his hope to introduce some new plan of co-ordination and specialization in the great medical services under his direction—that he will realize that nursing forms an important interdependent section of these services, and that in the near future, reliable tabulated information in connection with National Health, including nursing, will be available from the Ministry of Health.

The Council which met at 3 p.m., adjourned at 6.30 p.m. and assembled again on Saturday, November 22nd, at 3 p.m. to finish the business.

The Draft Programme for the Triennial Meeting of the Grand Council of the International Council of Nurses, and the Congress on Nursing convened to meet at Helsingfors, July 20th to 25th, 1925.

The Draft Programme of the business meetings of the International Council, and of the Nursing Congress convened by it, was carefully considered, and as requested, recommendations were agreed upon to be forwarded to Miss Reimann and the Programme Committee. A few recommendations were agreed, and the opinion expressed that, as usual, the programme was somewhat overloaded with papers, as plenty of time for discussion should be reserved. Nursing in all its ramifications is such a live subject in these days that one week is hardly sufficient time in which to thrash out and arrive at conclusions in the all-important questions of Legislation, Nursing Education and Economics, and the vast field of National Health.

Maternal Mortality.

A Resolution was unanimously adopted to be placed on the Agenda, proposing that the nursing curriculum of education for registration as a general nurse should follow along that of medicine, and that it should include instruction in medical nursing, surgical nursing and midwifery.

The Appointment of Delegates.

Each National Association of Nurses affiliated to the International Council has the privilege of appointing four Delegates to serve, together with certain honorary officers, to form the Grand Council of the International, which Delegates are in sympathy with, and are directed to support the national policy on questions under discussion.

The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland are fortunate in still possessing experienced officers, some of whom helped to found the International Council. Some consideration was given to the question of nomination of Delegates, and Miss H. L. Pearse, S.R.N., the honorary secretary, together with Miss Isabel Macdonald S.R.N., Secretary of the Royal Chartered Corporation, the Royal British Nurses' Association, were invited to act, they having signified they would be pleased to accept nomination. A lady to represent the Scottish League affiliated, was nominated, and the fourth nomination left over for further consideration.

The chairman reported with pleasure that steps were being taken in the Irish Free State to reorganize the Irish Nurses' Association, preparatory to asking for affiliation with the International Council at the Triennial Meeting at Helsingfors, and the meeting wished the movement all success.

The Death of Miss Helen Todd.

Miss Breay proposed that a message of sympathy should be sent from the National Council of Trained Nurses to the relatives of the late Miss Helen Todd, S.R.N., three of whom were trained nurses, and to the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, of which she was President at the time of her death, and by which her loss would be keenly felt.

The Resolution was carried in silence with a rising vote.

The meeting then terminated.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

A meeting of the Matrons' Council was held at the Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W., on Wednesday, November 5th, at 3 p.m.

The president, Miss Kathleen Smith, S.R.N., R.R.C., was in the chair, and the meeting was well attended.

A large number of letters of apology for non-attendance, were received, and one was read from Miss Clara Lee, expressing her deep regret that, owing to increasing ill-health, she could never be present at the meetings.

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