

## CONSTITUTION AND BYE-LAWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Adopted July, 1900.  
Amended July, 1909.  
Revised July, 1925.

*The following Constitution was adopted at the meeting of the Grand Council on July 25th.*

### PREAMBLE.

We nurses representing various nations of the world, sincerely believing that the Profession of Nursing will be advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy, and purpose, do hereby unite in a Federation of Associations of Trained Nurses to improve our work in the service of the sick, to promote the health of the nations, and to secure the honour and the interests of the Nursing Profession.

### CONSTITUTION.

#### ARTICLE I.

##### Title.

The title of this Federation of National Associations of Nurses shall be "The International Council of Nurses."

#### ARTICLE II.

##### Objects.

The International Council of Nurses stands for self-government by nurses in their associations, with the aim of raising ever higher the standards of education, professional ethics, and public usefulness of their members.

The International Council of Nurses stands for that full development of the human being and citizen in every nurse, which shall best enable her to bring her professional knowledge and skill to the many-sided service that modern society demands of her.

The Council aims to provide a means of communication between nurses of various nationalities, to provide opportunities for them to confer upon questions relating to the welfare of their patients and their profession, and to afford facilities for the interchange of international hospitality.

#### ARTICLE III.

##### Membership.

###### Section 1.

There shall be two classes of members :—

- (1) Active members.
- (2) Honorary members.

###### Section 2—Active Members.

One National Association from each country, composed of trained nurses, or representative societies of nurses, may become an Active Member of the Council, providing its Constitution and Bye-laws are in harmony with those of the International Council.

###### Section 3—Honorary Members.

Honorary Membership may be conferred by unanimous vote of the Grand Council upon Ex-Presidents of the International Council, or upon other nurses who have rendered valuable assistance to the nursing profession, the names having been recommended by the Board of Directors.

###### Section 4.

Any member of the International Council of Nurses in good standing, and not in arrears for dues may withdraw at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Directors. Any member withdrawing, relinquishes all interest in the properties of the Council.

###### Section 5.

Should an Active Member in The International Council of Nurses cease to meet requirements for membership in the Council it should be notified, and if, after investigation

and due warning, within a reasonable time it still fail to conform to these requirements, the Board of Directors shall report to the Grand Council for decision as to continuance of membership.

###### Section 6—Associate National Representatives.

In countries where a National Association has not been organised, or in case an organisation exists which is not a Member of the Council, the Board of Directors may appoint a nurse from that country to be known as an Associate National Representative. She shall act in an advisory capacity to the Council and shall represent the Council in that country until such time as a National Association shall be organised or become eligible for membership in the Council.

The duties of Associate National Representatives shall be :—To keep the International Council of Nurses informed of the progress of nursing in the countries represented, to assist with the development and organisation of National Associations, and in such manner as the Board of Directors may request.

An Associate National Representative may attend meetings of the Grand Council with voting power.

#### ARTICLE IV.

##### Officers.

The officers of this Council shall be :—

- (a) Hon. Presidents in office in 1925.
- (b) A President.
- (c) A First Vice-President.
- (d) A Second Vice-President.
- (e) A Treasurer.
- (f) A Secretary.
- (g) National Representatives.

The Presidents of National Organisations of nurses which are Active Members of the International Council of Nurses shall be known as National Representatives. These officers shall be trained, graduate nurses and shall constitute the Board of Directors.

#### ARTICLE V.

##### Representation.

###### Section 1.

The voting body at each Congress shall be known as the Grand Council and shall be composed of the Board of Directors together with the accredited delegates from each Active Member.

###### Section 2.

Each Active Member of the Council shall be entitled to four delegates in addition to their President.

###### Section 3.

Any National Representative may be represented by proxy at meetings of the Board of Directors and the Grand Council, but the nurse holding a proxy must have the professional qualifications of a National Representative and must present credentials from the organisation represented.

###### Section 4.

No member of the Grand Council shall be entitled to more than one vote except when voting by ballot for officers, or in questions already submitted to the Active Members.

#### ARTICLE VI.

##### Amendments.

###### Section 1.

This Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Grand Council by two-thirds vote of the members present and voting. All proposed amendments shall be in the possession of the Secretary at least four months before the date of the Congress and shall be placed on the Agenda for the meeting of the Grand Council.

###### Section 2.

Bye-laws may be adopted, amended, or repealed at any meeting of the Grand Council by a majority vote. All

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)