

the 310 nurses who have graduated from the two schools in the country had not had the advantage of reading nursing literature, or of seeing or of knowing of any nursing outside what had come to them through the Red Cross.

The Bulgarian Red Cross had been always directed by very highly-respected citizens—men greatly interested among other things in the development of Nursing, including some of the finest doctors of the country. The Society had done much—in fact almost everything so far accomplished for the advancement of Nursing in the country. Nurse meant Red Cross and Red Cross meant nurse to most people.

Miss Torrance said she dwelt on this situation because it made doubly important sound foundation principles for the nurses' professional organisation. She did not realise how completely the Red Cross Obshtina represented nursing to everybody, or she would no doubt have been rather timid about supporting a new movement. She had however strongly supported the organising of the present Bulgarian Nurses' Association. Some of the Bulgarian nurses have felt that it was not quite loyal for them to join a movement which was not Red Cross. She herself was a Red Cross nurse, having been so for nearly twelve years. No one can more highly appreciate than she does the work of the Red Cross Societies for the advancement of Nursing; but she was sure no explanation to the body here present was called for to clear her in this situation. The high, broad-minded, consistent standards of our leaders had ever been a source of help and strength.

The first surprise in their development came when the acting President of the Red Cross said that of course before the Constitution of the new society could go into effect, it must be approved by the executive committee of the Red Cross. Nevertheless the Constitution was accepted and stamped with approval in the Ministry of the Interior, having gone straight from the Nurses' meeting to that Bureau, and the Bulgarian Nurses' Association started officially on its way. The Red Cross assisted financially in the publication of the first journal issued by the Society, and the Red Cross personnel constantly assisted in many ways.

There seemed to be four main points of difference in principle between the Red Cross Nursing Organisation and that of the Bulgarian Nurses' Association; those of the former were: (1) To include as members only those nurses employed by Red Cross, (2) to strive in some ways for better preparation of nurses, (3) to appoint nurses to actual work, (4) to be governed by a committee appointed by the Executive Committee of the Red Cross; while those of the Bulgarian Nurses' Association were: (1) To include as members all diplomatised nurses in good standing in the country, (2) to strive in all possible ways for better preparation of nurses both before and after taking the diploma, and to educate the public in the aims of nursing service, (3) to *not* actually appoint any nurses to assignments of work, (4) to be governed by nurses only.

In the last two named points above lay the essential difference between a professional nurses' organisation and any other kind of movement in nursing circles, *i.e.*, in the appointment of nurses to work the government of the body.

In a country where professional nursing is new, these points need careful explanation, for the people are not accustomed to think of the nursing profession as capable of advancing a movement for social betterment.

It was evident that to quiet the doubters, and to make for itself a place, the principles and purposes of the professional nurses' organisation, especially in a new field, must be very positive and clear-cut, and something should be done early in its programme to demonstrate its reason for existence.

### The Importance of Developing the Younger Members.

Miss Grace M. Fairley said:

After hearing Miss Eldredge's paper and the two subsequent speakers, there is little left for me to say.

They have touched on the ethical side of the 'Fundamental Principles of Nursing Organisations,' but the one point I would like to emphasise is the importance and value of developing the younger members of all organisations, and preparing them for office.

All associations, whether provincial or national, or international, need the support, stimulus and interest of the young women of the profession. However efficient the officers may be, progress is bound to be retarded if the same members carry on year after year. The younger women on the executive not only bring to the organisation younger thought, but at the same time are being trained to fill the vacancies that inevitably must occur.

(To be continued.)

## THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The Annual Meeting of the Grand Council of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1, on November 14th, at 3 p.m.

### Minutes.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

### Correspondence.

The Correspondence included a large number of letters from influential societies and others. Action was taken where necessary. The most important was a letter from the Minister for Home Affairs for Northern Ireland, enclosing complete replies to the Questionnaire circulated to the National Council of Nurses by the International Council, which arrived just in time to be presented to the Education Committee at the meeting of the I.C.N. at Helsingfors. It was supported further by valuable documents. It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent from the National Council of Nurses to the Minister.

The opinion was expressed that it was a great reflection upon the Ministry of Health in England, that they could not furnish similar information.

A letter from the League of the Church Militant in reference to the Ministry of Women was referred to the Executive Committee for consideration.

Miss Beatrice Kent, S.R.N., was nominated, and elected to continue to represent the Council on the Public Health and Insurance Committee of the National Council of Women for the ensuing year.

### Application for Affiliation.

An application for affiliation with the Council from the Association of Hospital Matrons was considered and accepted.

### Appointment of New Nominated Delegates.

Mrs. Atherton Earp, S.R.N., President of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses, and the following new nominated delegates were appointed members of the Grand Council.

#### College of Nursing, Ltd.

Miss Margaret Hogg, S.R.N., C.B.E., R.R.C.; Miss A. W. Gill, R.G.N., R.R.C.; Miss E.S. Innes, S.R.N., R.R.C., D.N.; Miss E. M. Musson, S.R.N., R.R.C.

#### London Temperance Hospital Nurses' League.

Miss M. Penman, S.R.N.

#### Leicester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League.

Miss M. C. Harris, S.R.N.

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