

Registered Nurses' Society.

Miss E. E. Fowler, S.R.N.

St. John's House Nurses' League.

Miss M. Burr, S.R.N.

Professional Union of Trained Nurses.

Miss M. S. Essex, S.R.N.

Royal Infirmary Glasgow, Nurses' League.

Miss Margaret Campbell, R.G.N.; Miss Kate Carruthers, R.G.N.; Miss C. H. McAra, R.G.N.

Election of Officers.

Miss H. L. Pearse was re-elected Hon. Secretary, and Miss M. Breay, Hon. Treasurer.

Miss S. M. Marsters was elected Vice-President in place of Miss Stewart Donaldson who retired in rotation.

Miss Jessie Davies, President of the Royal Infirmary Bradford Nurses League, and Miss C. H. McAra, delegate of the Royal Infirmary Glasgow Nurses League, were elected Directors in place of Miss T. Bickerton, R.R.C., and Miss Livingston Charteris, who retired in rotation.

Hon. Secretary's Report.

Miss H. L. Pearse then presented the Hon. Secretary's Report.

MADAM PRESIDENT AND LADIES,

In presenting the Annual Report of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain for the year ending, November 1st, 1925, I have to report that the main work of the Council has been in connection with the Meeting of the International Council and Congress in Helsingfors in July, and Consideration of the Draft Amended Constitution drawn up, and submitted to the National Councils affiliated to the International Council of Nurses by the Revision Committee, nominated by the American Nurses Association which, at the meeting of the Executive Committee in Copenhagen in 1923 was deputed to assist the Hon. Secretary, Miss Christiane Reimann, who was, for the time being, resident in the United States, in preparing the Amendments to the Constitution for consideration of the Grand Council of the I.C.N. at Helsingfors.

The Committee was no doubt at a disadvantage owing to the fact that none of those nominated to serve upon it had been members of the Council in its early days, and thus could not be aware of the reasons underlying each carefully worded Article of the original constitution. Therefore when the first Draft of the Amended Constitution was received by the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain it found it necessary to propose a large number of Amendments, many of which were incorporated in the Final Draft of the Revision Committee which was again carefully considered and amended by the Grand Council of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and its Amendments were printed with others in parallel columns with the original Constitution, and the Final Draft as proposed by the Revision Committee for the consideration of the Grand Council at the Helsingfors meeting.

In the first Draft circulated by the Committee on Revision the Constitution was incorporated in the By-laws, and in a *precis* sent to the Committee with further amendments on behalf of our Council, the opinion was expressed that principles of fundamental importance should "still be incorporated, as at present, as Articles of the Constitution, so that they may be readily apprehended, and that methods of administration shall be dealt with in the By-Laws."

This method was adopted by the Committee in subsequent Revises.

It was further pointed out that the Committee on Revision had not apprehended the fact that a Congress on Nursing convened by the International Council of Nurses has no powers of Government, consequently that throughout the draft Proposed Constitution the word "Congress" was employed where "Grand Council" should be used. Also that nowhere throughout the Draft Proposed Constitution and By-Laws was there an Article providing for the establishment of the Grand Council, though there was a reference to the Voting Body at "each regular meeting of the Congress." Our representations in this regard brought the response that the Committee preferred not to give the Governing Body a name. Eventually however, the Grand Council was not eliminated and its duties were defined.

The points of outstanding importance for the consideration of the Grand Council at Helsingfors were:—

I. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL.

Under Article III the Revision Committee's proposals were that there should be three classes of members:—

(1) *Active Members*.—National Associations composed of nurses, or representative Societies of Nurses, providing their Constitution and By-Laws are in harmony with those of the International Council.

(2) *Associate Members*.—National Associations of Nurses which do not meet all the requirements for membership in the International Council of Nurses may become Associate Members of the Council. It was proposed that the Associate Member Organisations in the Council should not exceed the number of Active Member Organisations, and that no Country should be allowed to be represented by more than one Associate Member Organisation in addition to a National Organisation which is already an Active Member of the Council.

(3) *Honorary Members*.—The Revision Committee propose that Hon. Membership of the Council might be conferred by unanimous vote of the Grand Council upon Ex-Presidents of the I.C.N., or upon others who had rendered valuable assistance to the Nursing Profession.

The Delegates of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain voiced its unanimous and strong disapproval of the introduction of the proposed class of Associate Members, as striking at the foundation upon which the Council had been built up, namely that in each country one National Association of Nurses should act as the intermediary with the International Council of Nurses. The proposal of the Canadian Nurses Association that the provision made for Associate Members be deleted, was carried unanimously, as was the Resolution standing in the name of our National Council.

"In each country a National Association composed of Trained Nurses, or representative societies of Trained Nurses, may become an Active Member of the International Council providing that its Constitution and By-Laws are in harmony with those of the International Council.

The only Amendment made—the substitution of the word *one* for a before "National Association" had the effect of strengthening it. There are therefore only two classes of members in the I.C.N.—Active and Honorary—and a great peril to the future welfare of the International Council of Nurses was thus averted.

Your delegates supported the amendment proposed by the Canadian Nurses Association in regard to the qualifications for Honorary Membership, namely, that the words "upon others who" might be amended to read "upon *other nurses* who have rendered valuable assistance to the Nursing Profession," thus limiting this distinction to members of the Nursing Profession.

Article IV.—Concerning Article IV, your delegates differ from the wording of the first line, as circulated in the Revised Constitution, which reads "The Officers of this Council shall be (a) Hon. Presidents in office in 1925," whereas what was actually carried was "The Officers of this Council shall be the Hon. Officers in office in 1925," the latter wording covering the Councillors (Foundation Members) as well as the Hon. Presidents.

Your Delegates would have made the strongest possible protest against this breach of faith with the Foundation Members of the Council, had it been put forward as a recommendation by the Executive Committee. The position of Councillors as officers of the Council does not, however, rest on this Clause in the Constitution alone. A Resolution stands upon the minutes of the International Council of Nurses:—

"That all ladies who have accepted seats on the Provisional Committee of the International Council of Nurses, and by their sympathetic co-operation helped to form the Council, be elected Foundation Members of the International Council of Nurses, holding the title of Councillor, and having voting power in the Grand Council for Life."

Until, therefore, a National Council moves that this Resolution be rescinded, it stands.

It is unthinkable that any of our Active Members would desire to undertake so invidious a task as to propose that this obligation of honour should cease to be carried out, while at the present time, they are enjoying the fruit of the work of these Foundation Members. It is an obligation of honour that these Members should be maintained in the position offered to and accepted by them.

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