

## NURSES' ORGANIZATIONS.

## 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, November 13th, at 3 p.m., and there were present: Mrs. Bedford Fenwick (President, in the Chair), Miss E. Pell Smith (*Vice President*), Miss A. Stewart Bryson, Miss I. Macdonald, Miss A. Carson Rae (*Directors*), Miss M. Breay (*Hon. Treasurer*) Miss A. M. Bushby, and Miss L. Ramsden (The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland), Miss R. Cox Davies, Miss Darbyshire, Miss Finch (The Association of Hospital Matrons), Miss C. MacCallum (The Scottish Matrons' Association), Miss A. Carson Rae (The Irish Matrons' Association), Miss A. W. Gill and Miss E. M. Musson (The College of Nursing, Ltd.), Miss Beatrice Kent, President, Miss Kathleen A. Smith (The Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council), Miss E. E. Fowler (The Registered Nurses' Society), Mrs. Lancelot Andrews and Miss G. le Geyt (The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses), Miss A. S. Marshall (President the London Temperance Hospital Nurses' League), Miss Mary Wilson (L.C.C. School Nurses' Union), Miss M. C. Harris (Leicester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League), Mrs. Fitzhugh (Royal Infirmary Bradford Nurses' League), Miss Margaret Campbell and Miss K. Carruthers (Glasgow Royal Infirmary Nurses' League).

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read and confirmed.

## Correspondence.

Letters and messages of regret at inability to attend were received from Miss H. L. Pearse (*Hon. Secretary*), Miss C. H. McAra (*Director*), Miss Lloyd Still (*President*, Association of Hospital Matrons), Miss M. Hogg, and Miss E. S. Innes (*College of Nursing, Ltd.*), Miss R. Wallace (*President*, Southwark Hospital Nurses' League), Miss E. M. Waind (*League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses*), Miss Mary Burr (*League of St. John's House Nurses*), Mrs. Balstone (*Victoria Bournemouth Nurses' League*).

The President then presented the correspondence including an important letter, part of which had been previously circulated, from Miss C. Reimann (*Secretary of the International Council of Nurses*) addressed to the President, as a member of its Board of Directors, in regard to an Interim Conference in Geneva in 1927, for which several of the Associations affiliated to the International Council of Nurses had expressed a desire. The time suggested was the third or fourth week in July, the period two days for Business Meetings and three for the General Conference, and the subjects principally the Problems of Principles and Methods of Practical Nursing, with demonstrations of various Nursing Procedures, and an Exhibition Parade of Nursing Uniforms.

The letter further stated that the International Red Cross Committee would probably hold their Bi-Annual Conference with exhibits and interesting demonstrations of First Aid and Sanitation Service at the time, and suggested that they would like to co-operate with the International Council of Nurses as regards exhibits and demonstrations, and that probably they would suggest one common demonstration where we would be responsible for the whole of the Nursing side.

The Council considered that while relations with the Red Cross Societies should be cordial, there should be no fusion between the two bodies. The President pointed out that we had to recognise that the Red Cross Society was a charitable military body, and that each country organised its work in an autonomous manner. It was not a professional body, and the International Council of Nurses must carefully retain its professional independence. The League of Red Cross Societies

had since the War, done fine work for international nursing education—with Headquarters in London—work the members of the International Council of Nurses warmly approved, but fusion between the two bodies was not necessary for an extension of sympathy between them.

This view was supported by Miss Musson, Miss Cox Davies, Miss Beatrice Kent, and others.

The Council approved the proposition for an Interim Conference, and the place and time suggested, and Miss Cox Davies moved that the question be referred to the Executive, with power to form a Conference Committee. This was seconded by Miss Musson and carried unanimously.

The Chairman said she gathered from Miss Reimann that the conference arrangements would be made only through Headquarters, formerly the procedure was that each National Council considered the proposed scope of the Conference and sent forward propositions. The Hon. Officers would communicate with Miss Reimann and inform her of the result of the Council's deliberations.

The President read a letter from Miss Reimann in which she wrote: "I am writing to thank you and to tell you how happy we are to have received the splendid collection of books and magazines (section of International Library) which arrived from London. Everything reached us in excellent condition and will form a most valuable addition to what we already have."

The invitation of the Joint Standing Committee on Women's International Organisations to the International Council of Nurses to co-operate with that body, and a letter from Miss C. Reimann, Secretary I.C.N., suggesting the President of our National Council and Miss E. M. Musson as representatives was considered.

A discussion in which Miss Beatrice Kent, Miss Musson (who had already attended some of the Committee's Meetings, as holding a watching brief), and Mrs. Lancelot Andrews took part, ended in the decision (*nem. con.*) that the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain was in favour of representation of the Directorate of the I.C.N. being represented on the Committee, and of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Miss Musson as representatives. Miss Musson expressed the view that our profession was not sufficiently brought to the front in the League of Nations, and she considered that, especially when health questions were under consideration, it was important that it should be represented, and the fact of our representatives sitting on the Joint Standing Committee would emphasize our existence.

The President read a letter from Miss Gladys Stephenson urging support to resuming the practice of giving a Watchword as formerly for the ensuing period at the Meeting of the International Council in Peking.

On the motion of Miss Carson Rae, seconded by Miss Kathleen Smith, the Council approved of the proposition.

The President placed before the Council correspondence with Miss Reimann concerning the admission of the College of Nursing, Ltd., to the National Council.

The Council was of opinion that it had power under the Constitution then in force to admit the College of Nursing, Ltd., and further information as to details was unnecessary.

There had also been a large correspondence with Miss Reimann during the year on various points connected with the International Council of Nurses which letters were upon the table.

A Questionnaire in relation to Public Health Nursing was referred to the Public Health Nursing Standing Committee.

## Appointment of New Nominated Delegates.

The names of new Delegates nominated by the following Affiliated Associations were then placed before the Council. *Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, Nurses' League.*—Miss Jessie Wilson, S.R.N., Hampstead General and North West Hospital, Haverstock Hill.

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