

## 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 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.1, on Tuesday, November 22nd, at 3 p.m.

There were present: Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, *President*, in the Chair; Miss K. A. Smith, *Vice-President*; Miss A. S. Bryson, Miss A. W. Gill, and Miss Isabel Macdonald, *Directors*; Miss M. Breay, *Hon. Treasurer*, and the following delegates: Miss A. M. Bushby (the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland); Miss R. Cox Davies, Miss M. A. Willcox (the Association of Hospital Matrons); Miss E. M. Cuthbert (President, Mental Hospital Matrons' Association); Miss A. W. Gill (President), Miss E. M. Musson, Miss R. Darbyshire, Miss E. S. Rundle (College of Nursing, Ltd.); Miss Beatrice Kent (President), Miss Kathleen A. Smith (the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council); Miss E. E. Fowler, Miss E. F. Eburah (the Registered Nurses' Association); Mrs. Lancelot Andrews; Miss E. M. Waind (the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses); Miss A. S. Marshall, (President, the London Temperance Hospital Nurses' League); Mrs. Stewart Murray, Miss F. E. Ray (the Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, Nurses' League); Miss Mary Wilson (L.C.C. School Nurses' Social Union); Miss M. Bridge (Royal Infirmary, Bradford, Nurses' League); and Miss Mary Campbell (Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, Nurses' League).

### Vote of Condolence.

The Minutes having been read by Miss M. Breay, the President, from the Chair, proposed that a Vote of Condolence with the Canadian Nurses' Association on the death of its President, Miss Flora Madeline Shaw, R.N., should be sent to the Association.

She said: I invite this meeting of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain to offer heartfelt sympathy to the Canadian Nurses' Association at the loss of their distinguished and greatly beloved President, Flora Madeline Shaw, and to assure them that her name will be always held in honoured memory by this Council. Most of those present know that the death of Miss Shaw took place in England, at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, as she was returning to Canada after attending the meeting of the Board of Directors of the International Council of Nurses at Geneva. A memorial service was held in the beautiful Lady Chapel in the Liverpool Cathedral, and thanks were due to Miss M. Jones, Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, who did everything in her power to do honour to our esteemed colleague. Miss E. J. Haswell, in the absence of the President, represented the National Council of Nurses at the funeral, and a number of members of the Council represented affiliated organisations. Beautiful flowers were sent by our Council to the funeral, which took place in Montreal, and one of our purple and silver Geneva badges was attached to them.

An uprising Vote of Condolence was then passed.

### The Hon. Secretary's Report.

The Report of the Hon. Secretary was then presented by the President. It recorded that during the year the Council had had the pleasure of welcoming into affiliation the Royal Waterloo Hospital Nurses' League and the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association.

Miss Lloyd Still, C.B.E., R.R.C., President of the Association of Hospital Matrons; Miss K. A. Smith, R.R.C. Hon. Secretary of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, had consented to act as Vice-Presidents.

Miss A. W. Gill, R.R.C. (Scottish Matrons' Association), and Miss Helen Lamb, Matron of Claybury Mental Hospital, had been elected Directors.

The Report also recorded that Miss A. W. Gill, R.R.C., had been elected President of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and, as a State Registered Nurse, had, as President, an ex-officio seat on the National Council of Nurses, as had Miss Helen Dey, R.R.C., President of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, Miss G. M. Simms, R.R.C., President of the Royal Waterloo Hospital Nurses' League, and Miss E. M. Cuthbert, President of the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association.

The following delegates had been appointed since the last annual meeting: Miss Ruth Darbyshire, R.R.C., in place of Miss Hogg resigned; Miss M. S. Rundle, R.R.C., in place of Miss Gill, by the College of Nursing, Ltd.; Miss Willcox, R.R.C., in place of Miss Darbyshire, by the Association of Hospital Matrons; Miss Lilian Holl and Miss E. L. Noble, by the League of the Royal Waterloo Hospital Nurses; Miss E. Pell Smith, by the Royal Infirmary, Leicester, Nurses' League; Mrs. Stewart Murray and Miss F. E. Ray, by the Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, Nurses' League.

As a result of a Carnival Dance, which she organised, Mrs. Northwood made a contribution of £34 11s. 6d. to the Funds of the Council.

The *per capita* fees for the subscription for 1927 of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain had been contributed by the Affiliated Associations, and the sum of £303 9s. 3d. sent to the Hon. Treasurer of the International Council of Nurses

### Geneva.

Considerable consideration was given in the first half of the year to the arrangements for the attendance of members of the National Council of Nurses at the Interim Conference of the International Council of Nurses at Geneva.

The official party was organised by Miss A. Carson Rae, and the College of Nursing organised its own contingent. 167 nurses attended from Great Britain, and were recognised by purple and silver ribbon badges.

### The Interim Conference of the I.C.N.

We must briefly put on record the most important features of the Interim Conference held in July in the lovely city of Geneva. The fact that over 700 nurses of 34 nations assembled there proves the vitality of the International Council of Nurses, which is supported by National Associations of Nurses in all parts of the world.

### Work of the Board of Directors.

A lesson of the Helsingfors Meeting was taken to heart, and the Board of Directors met for two days of work before the Conference opened—as well as when requisite throughout the week—in all it held eight meetings, and a great amount of important business was transacted which had accumulated for disposal since the Board met in Halila in 25.

It will be remembered that the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, after the revision of the Constitution of the I.C.N. at the meeting of the Grand Council at Helsingfors in 1925, directed the Hon. Secretary to refer back to the Board of Directors three points incorporated in the revised Constitution and By-laws.

### I.—Elimination of Foundation Members.

Under the original Constitution, the Foundation Members were Hon. Officers, and entitled to seats on the Grand Council.

Also by Resolution of the Council they were given the title of Councillor, and had voting power on the Grand Council for life.

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