

## NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

### THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The half-yearly meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain was held in the Board Room of the Registered Nurses Association, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Monday, April 27th, 1931, 4.30 p.m. Those present were entertained to tea before the meeting. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, was in the Chair, and there were present:—Miss S. A. Villiers, J.P., Hon. Secretary; Miss M. Breay, Hon. Treasurer; Miss Helen Dey, R.R.C., Vice-President; Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss R. Cox-Davies, C.B.E., R.R.C., Miss H. L. Pearse, Directors; Miss Sparshott, C.B.E., R.R.C., President, College of Nursing; Miss M. F. Hughes, President, Leicester Royal Infirmary, Nurses' League; Miss E. T. Bickerton, President, Prince of Wales General Hospital, Nurses League; Miss I. Macdonald, President, The League of Private Nurses.

The Minutes having been read and confirmed, letters of regret at inability to attend were reported from Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C.; Miss Darbyshire, R.R.C.; Miss A. S. Marshall; Miss A. Cattell, notifying her resignation as President of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses; Miss Gregory Smith, R.R.C.; Miss McDonald; Miss G. M. Simms; Miss B. Kent.

#### Correspondence.

Amongst the letters received was one of thanks from Miss Alicia Lloyd Still, C.B.E., R.R.C., for election as Vice-President; from Miss Silvia H. Vian, Matron, Royal United Hospital, Bath, accepting nomination to act as the Representative Trustee of the National Council on the Somerset and Bristol Board of the Mariabella Fry and Evelyn M. Eden Benevolent Funds Council, in succession to Miss E. Mellor; from Miss L. van Hagendorp, Secretary, Nationale Bond, Van Verplegenden, Amsterdam, re training and work for Dutch Nurses in nursing and midwifery in England; from Miss Sheila Kaye-Smith, acknowledging with thanks a contribution from the Council towards the National Memorial to St. Joan of Arc at Rouen, "in homage to the Maid of France and in atonement for the English share in her death," and informing the Council that "the name of your Council will be inscribed in the Golden Book which will be laid on the foundation stone of St. Joan's Memorial Church in Rouen on May 30th, and afterwards kept in perpetuity in her Church."

#### Changes of Delegates.

*The College of Nursing.*—Miss M. Graton, senior Sister Tutor at Guy's Hospital, in the place of Miss Darbyshire, President of University College Hospital Nurses' League.

*Royal Waterloo Hospital Nurses' League.*—Miss Olive Hill, in place of Miss L. Holl.

The meeting approved the nominations.

#### Applications for Affiliation.

Applications for Affiliation were received from (1) The County and County Borough Hospital Matrons' Association, of which the President was Miss Letitia Clark, M.B.E., R.R.C., Matron of Whipps Cross Hospital, the number of members was notified as 130 (plus 50 Associates), the latter Registered Nurses who were Matrons and Superintendent Nurses of small hospitals which did not rank as Training Schools. The President explained that the Association had an honourable record of work for 20 years as the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons Association, and the change of name had been adopted since the Poor Law Infirmarys had been reorganised as Municipal Hospitals, under the Local Government Board Act, 1929, and that

the affiliation of the Association would complete the inclusion of all the six Matrons' Associations in England and Scotland, together with the Superintendents of District Nurses, in the National Council of Nurses.

Exception was taken to the inclusion of Associate Members for purposes of representation on the National Council, as although they were Registered Nurses they were not members with voting power in the County Hospital Matrons' Association.

It was agreed to accept the application of the County and County Borough Hospital Matrons' Association, in so far as the 130 full members were concerned, but that Associate members could not be included as members of the National Council of Nurses.

The nominated delegates, Miss Annie Dowbiggin, M.B.E., R.R.C., Matron, North Middlesex Hospital, Edmonton, and Miss Gertrude E. Copeman, Matron, Paddington Hospital, W., were approved.

(2) An Application for Affiliation was received from the League of Sister Tutors, of which Miss D. K. Graham was President. The number of members on the Form was given as 55, but was reported to be 65.

It was agreed to admit the League of Sister Tutors.

The nominated delegates, Miss H. G. Ballard, S.R.N., St. Leonard's Hospital, N.1, and Miss E. S. Laing, S.R.N., May Day Road Hospital, Thornton Heath, Sister Tutors, were approved.

#### Report of the Advisory Committee on International Affairs.

A report was received on the Nurses' International Memorial to Miss Florence Nightingale, and it was agreed that the President as Chairman of the International Committee, should present a short report to the Board of Directors of the I.C.N. at Geneva next June.

The President was empowered to bring several matters for the better organisation of the International Council of Nurses before the Board of Directors.

One matter was considered of great importance—that invitations for holding Congresses should be brought *first* before the Board of Directors before presentation to the Grand Council, to which the Board should present a considered report, and such invitations should not be accepted from the floor, as, in the past, lack of such precaution had resulted in the failure of invitations to materialise. It was considered advisable that the forthcoming meeting of the Board of Directors should discuss probable invitations for the Meeting of the Grand Council and Congress in 1937, and of an Interim Congress in 1935.

#### Nursing Profession (Wages and Hours) Bill.

The "Nursing Profession (Wages and Hours) Bill" was before the Committee, which agreed that its provisions if it became law would affect most injuriously the standard of nursing the sick, and the welfare of the Nursing Profession, which would result in penalising Registered Nurses and give absolute freedom to unqualified persons. It was reported that there was active opposition to the Bill in the House of Commons, and that it was being consistently blocked.

The President brought to the notice of the Committee the recommendations concerning the Regulation of Hours of Work in Establishments for the Treatment or the Care of the Sick, Infirm, Destitute or Mentally Unfit, agreed at the Annual Conference of the International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations, held at Geneva last year, under the Section "Hours of Work of Salaried Employees," in which it is proposed to extend regulations of hours of work in commerce and offices, to as many classes of establishments as possible, including "establishments for the treatment or the care of the sick, infirm, destitute or mentally unfit."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)