

A proposed re-drafted Constitution sent by Miss Richardson (Hon. Secretary of the League of Mental Hospital Nurses), was considered, recommendations in conformity with the Regulations of the Executive Committee were discussed and formally agreed, the Sub-Committee taking exception to certain conditions in the proposed Constitution. Miss Richardson attended, and was invited to discuss the Constitution personally with the Sub-Committee, and agreed to place the recommendations of the Executive Committee before the League of Mental Hospital Nurses.

After the termination of the meeting a summary of the proposed alterations in the Regulations in the Constitution of the League of Mental Hospital Nurses with the object of making it eligible for affiliation with the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain was forwarded to Miss Richardson to be placed before the Executive Committee of the League of Mental Hospital Nurses.

MEMORANDUM OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

From the Sub-Committee appointed on October 26th, 1934, by the Executive Committee, "to consider the Application for Affiliation and the Constitution of the League of Mental Hospital Nurses, and to make Recommendations" to that Committee.

TITLE.

1. The Sub-Committee suggests for the consideration of the League of Mental Hospital Nurses that its name shall be changed to "The Central League of Mental Nurses," thus forming a strong group, to which all nurses might belong, whose names are registered on the Supplementary Parts of the Registers for Mental Nurses, formed and kept by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the General Nursing Council for Scotland, and the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council for Northern Ireland.

QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

2. The qualifications for membership should be as above, with a period of grace for one year, from the adoption of the proposed Regulations, for holders of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association's certificate.

The Sub-Committee disapproved of the admission of nurses in training as Associates of the League, as the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain is composed of Graduates of Schools of Nursing approved as training schools for nurses by the General Nursing Councils for England and Wales, for Scotland, and for Northern Ireland; and of Professional Associations of State Registered Nurses, which hold professional qualifications acceptable to the Council.

The President reported to the Sub-Committee that the admission of male nurses to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, through the League of Mental Hospital Nurses, would create a precedent, and that some discussion on this point had taken place at the meeting of the Executive Committee on October 26th, 1934, but that it was agreed by a very large majority that sex discrimination was indefensible.

N.B.—Taking into consideration the views of the International Council of Nurses, with which the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain is affiliated, it will be obligatory that in the event of the League being accepted for affiliation, its President who will have an *ex-officio* seat on the Executive Committee, and the Delegates nominated for seats on the Grand Council, shall have the double qualification of registration on the General Part, and the Supplementary Part for Mental Nurses, of one of the State Registers.

It was agreed to make recommendations to the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain in the above sense, at its Meeting in April next, and to forward a copy of them in the meantime to the

Hon. Secretary of the League of Mental Hospital Nurses, and to ask for the views of its Executive Committee on these points by the end of March, 1935.

The sub-Committee were unanimously of opinion that the organisation of Mental Nurses on professional lines was, both for the benefit of mental patients, and of their nurses, of imperative importance.

This Report is respectfully submitted :—

A copy of this Report was acknowledged by Miss Richardson, who stated that it was placed before a Meeting of the League of Mental Hospital Nurses, which referred it to a sub-Committee, to be considered at the March Meeting, after which its decision would be communicated.

Dated March 28th, 1935, the following letter was received from the Acting Hon. Secretary, Mr. D. Gibson-Urquhart.

THE LEAGUE OF MENTAL HOSPITAL NURSES.

March 28th, 1935.

The Hon. Secretary,
National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

Dear Madam,

At the Quarterly Meeting of the League of Mental Hospital Nurses, held at the Royal British Nurses Association Headquarters, 194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on March 9th, 1935, the Sub-Committee appointed to consider the alterations in its constitution, as suggested by the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, with a view to becoming eligible for affiliation to that body, submitted its report as follows :—

(1) That the Sub-Committee after a very careful consideration of all the points suggested by the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, unanimously decided that it could not agree to the suggestion made, namely :

To alter the name or title of the League from, "The League of Mental Hospital Nurses" to "The Central League of Mental Nurses."

(2) The Sub-Committee found themselves in agreement with the proposed conditions laid down for membership, namely :—

That on the expiration of one year's grace, as from the date of affiliation, only such nurses as hold the Certificate of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales in Mental Nursing and in the Nursing of Mental Defectives will be admitted to Membership.

(3) The Sub-Committee also suggested that Nurses in training be no longer admitted as associates of the League of Mental Hospital Nurses.

The foregoing report was read at the General Meeting of the League, was adopted, and passed unanimously.

The Executive Committee have instructed me to enquire, under which rule of the constitution of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain this League is ineligible for affiliation to the Council.

I am, Madam,
Yours faithfully,
D. GIBSON URQUHART,
Acting Hon. Secretary.

The Chairman said that there was an increasingly strong feeling throughout the nursing world of the importance of Mental Nursing, and of the necessity for its efficient professional organisation.

It was proposed by Miss MacManus and seconded by Miss Cochrane that the Report be received.

The Chairman pointed out that the only question at issue with the League of Mental Hospital Nurses was the title of the League. The Sub-Committee had recommended the insertion of the word "Central" to emphasise the principle that there should be for the future but one League of Mental Nurses, and not numerous small Leagues organised. This principle has been agreed on the admission of the League of Fever Nurses, who were, moreover, doubly qualified women.

Miss Musson supported this point of view and pointed

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)