

CONGRESS ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE, I.C.N.

The second meeting of the Congress Arrangements Committee of the International Council of Nurses, was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on May 20th, 1936, at 3 p.m.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Chairman of the Committee, presided, and there were present Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, D.B.E., R.R.C., who as President of the I.C.N. has an *ex-officio* seat on all Standing Committees, and the following members of the Committee: Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss Helen Dey, R.R.C., Miss Isabel Macdonald, Miss N. Farrant, Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., Miss F. M. Campbell, Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss R. Cox Davies, C.B.E., R.R.C., Miss D. S. Goode, Miss M. Craig, Miss E. Brodie, Miss M. Breay, Hon. Treasurer, N.C.N., and Miss S. A. Villiers, J.P., Hon. Secretary, N.C.N.

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Chairman notified letters of regret at inability to attend from Miss G. M. Littleboy, A.R.R.C., and Miss M. Husband, and a message from Miss E. MacManus, O.B.E.

As it was thought very advisable that Scottish Nurses should be represented on the Congress Arrangements Committee, the following ladies have been invited to take part in its deliberations: Miss M. Craig, President, Scottish Matrons' Association, Miss E. Brodie, President Scottish Nurses' Association, and Miss M. Husband, President, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow Nurses' League. All had consented to serve and she had pleasure in welcoming Miss Craig and Miss Brodie, who were present.

INVITATIONS TO OFFICIAL DELEGATES.

The Chairman presented a letter from Lord Stanmore, Treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in which he wrote: "I understand that the International Council of Nurses is holding a Congress in London next year, and it would seem particularly appropriate that St. Bartholomew's Hospital, as one of the Chief Training Schools for Nurses in this country should extend hospitality to the delegates," and in which as President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, he asked her to convey to the International Council an invitation to the President and Grand Council to Dinner in the Great Hall of the Hospital on any day during the week commencing Monday, July 12th, 1937, which suits the convenience of the Council.

It was agreed to thank Lord Stanmore and accept with great pleasure his most kind invitation, which, when the date was arranged for his convenience, would be placed on the Official Programme of the forthcoming Congress.

A letter was also presented from the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, Treasurer of St. Thomas's Hospital, who on behalf of the Governors desired to convey to the President and International Council a cordial invitation to a Dinner or Reception, or both, in the Governors' Hall of the Hospital, in connection with the Congress which the International Council of Nurses is holding in London next year. In accepting the invitation it was agreed that Sir Arthur Stanley should be warmly thanked for his courtesy, and that in consultation with him arrangements should be made for a convenient date on which to hold the function, to be inserted on the Official Programme.

A letter was read from Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Crosfield, of Embley Park, the former home of Miss Florence Nightingale, in which they invited a hundred official delegates,

members of the Grand Council, to the International Nurses' Congress, to take tea in the garden and view the beautiful house, containing Miss Nightingale's rooms. This invitation, it was realised, would be specially acceptable and eagerly enjoyed by Nurses from all over the world. The thanks of the Committee were to be conveyed to Mr. and Mrs. Crosfield for their very kind invitation.

Offers of hospitality were also received from the Royal British Nurses' Association, the Association of Hospital Matrons, and from the County and County Borough Hospital Matrons' Association—the latter offered a luncheon to 50 members of the Municipal Hospitals from Overseas.

It was agreed to accept these hospitable suggestions, the details to be agreed at a later date.

MEETING OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A Meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee of the Congress Arrangements Committee I.C.N., was held on February 28th, at 4.30 p.m., at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Chairman Congress Arrangements Committee, was in the Chair, and all members were present, *i.e.*, Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, President I.C.N., *ex-officio*; Miss M. Breay, Hon. Treasurer, N.C.N.; Miss E. M. Musson, Treasurer, I.C.N.; and Miss Isabel Macdonald.

SHORT REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Chairman stated that at a Meeting of the Executive Committee, National Council of Nurses, held on February 7th, 1936, a short report was placed before it of the recommendations of the Congress Arrangements Committee *re* the financial responsibility of the National Council for Congress business.

The Executive Committee considered a letter from Messrs. Hartley and Hartley *re* cost of hiring the Central Hall, Westminster, from July 19th to 24th, 1937, inclusive, and unanimously agreed that the Central Hall should be booked for the dates mentioned.

It was reported that the inclusive charge for six days' hiring of the Halls and Committee Rooms, including lighting, heating, cleaning, etc., after making a special reduction of 15 per cent. amounted to £423.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, and Dame Alicia Lloyd Still consented to sign the contract with the trustees.

The Chairman stated: "As President of the National Council of Nurses I am of opinion that financial responsibility for the International Congress should be defined and agreed without further delay. I have therefore informally invited a legal opinion on the matter, and am informed that the Congress Arrangements Committee I.C.N. has no financial responsibility whatever, as its functions as defined in the Bye-Laws of the I.C.N. are merely of an administrative character, and that the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain will presumably be held responsible for the payment of expenses incurred in the organisation of the Congress, and as the National Council is not an incorporated body, every member is equally responsible. That under these circumstances the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain must authorise any appeal for money in connection with the Congress, and all expenditure of funds collected, so that they may be duly audited."

It was unanimously agreed that an Official Appeal inviting financial support of the organisation of the International Congress of Nurses, of which Great Britain is the hostess country, should be issued at an early date to the Presidents of every Constituent Association of the National Council. It was agreed that the Official Appeal should be signed by the three *ex-officio* officers of the Council, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss M. Breay and Miss S. A. Villiers, and by the three members of the Finance Committee, Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, Miss E. M. Musson and Miss Isabel Macdonald.

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