

## THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

### MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Wednesday, October 21st, 1936, at 2.30 p.m.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick (President) was in the Chair, and there were present Miss Margaret Breay, Hon. Treasurer; Miss Susan A. Villiers, J.P., Hon. Secretary; Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss Helen Dey, R.R.C., and Miss Isabel Macdonald, Vice-Presidents; Miss G. M. Littleboy, A.R.R.C., Miss N. Farrant, Miss F. M. Campbell, and Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., Directors; Miss B. Kent, President, Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council; Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Matrons' Council and League, of Charing Cross Hospital Nurses; Miss H. Dey, League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses; Miss M. F. Hughes, D.N., Leicester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League; Miss E. T. Bickerton, R.R.C., Prince of Wales Hospital, Tottenham, Nurses' League; Miss D. S. Coode, the College of Nursing; Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, Association of Hospital Matrons and the Nightingale Fellowship; Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the British College of Nurses; Miss H. McLoughlin, Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association; Miss I. Macdonald, the League of Private Nurses; Miss H. Ballard, D.N., the League of Sister Tutors; Miss E. S. Innes, R.R.C., Leeds General Infirmary Nurses' League; Miss G. M. Littleboy, the London Hospital League of Nurses; Miss M. B. Salton, Nurses' League of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington; Miss M. G. Allbutt, the Fulham Hospital Nurses' League; Miss W. P. Solomon, R.R.C., League of Fever Nurses; and Miss M. E. Craven, West London Hospital Nurses' League.

The Minutes were read by the Hon. Secretary and confirmed and signed by the President.

### BUSINESS ARISING.

The Chairman announced the replies which had been received through the Home Office by direction of His Majesty the King and Her Majesty Queen Mary to the expressions of respectful sympathy which had been addressed respectively to Their Majesties on the death of King George V. She invited the Committee to stand while she read the letters.

The Chairman also read a communication addressed to herself, as President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, from the relatives of the late Miss Take Hagiwara, President of the Nurses' Association of the Japanese Empire, notifying her death, and it was agreed that an acknowledgment with a sincere expression of regret be sent to Miss Hagiwara's family.

The President also reported the sudden death of Miss Clara D. Noyes (First Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses), and that a cable of sympathy was sent to Miss Susan C. Francis (President, American Nurses' Association); and read letters of acknowledgment and thanks from Miss Susan C. Francis and Mrs. Alma H. Scott (Director of Headquarters, American Nurses' Association).

### CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence was presented:

A letter from Mrs. Mary Breckinridge (Volunteer Director of the Kentucky Frontier Nursing Service) expressing warm thanks and appreciation for the gift of a "Nightingale Brick," which she notified would be inserted in the wall of the Hospital at Hyden with a bronze plaque with an inscription stating that the brick was from Florence Nightingale's house and was presented by the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

A letter from Miss E. Ruth Bridges, notifying a letter received from Southland Hospital Board, Invercargill, New Zealand, expressing warm thanks to the National

Council of Nurses of Great Britain for complying with the request for a brick from Miss Nightingale's house, which has been incorporated in the foundation stone of the Nurses' Home with a suitable inscription.

Letter from Sister Bergljot Larsson, notifying that after 23 years in office she has resigned the Presidency of the Norwegian Nurses' Association, and that Miss Marit Berg-Domas (Instructor of Nurses at the Municipal Hospital, Oslo) has been elected to succeed her for a period of four years, but that she is still holding many important positions as Superintendent of Departments of the Association.

A cable from the Palestine Jewish Nurses' Association notifying the murder of two Jewish nurses at Jaffa, and appealing to our National Council of Nurses to urge the British Government to take action in relation thereto. This the President had done, and she reported the sympathetic reply received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, which had been forwarded to the President of the Jewish Nurses' Association at Jerusalem, together with a letter of sympathy from herself in the name of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

Letter from Dame Alicia Lloyd Still, enquiring whether Presidents of two or more affiliated Associations were entitled to vote for each. The question as presented by the President was realised to be of importance. The custom in the past had been "one man one vote." It was decided to place the matter on the agenda for consideration at a future meeting.

### NURSING OF THE CHRONIC SICK.

The Chairman read a letter from Miss E. M. Musson, from 20, Portland Place, W.1, inviting the Council to appoint two delegates to attend a meeting to which she proposed to invite representatives of the Nursing Profession, to obtain their views in regard to the Nursing of the Chronic Sick, having been approached by the Joint Committee of the County Councils' Association and the Association of Municipal Corporations on the matter.

Miss Musson said that there was no pressure from the Ministry of Health in regard to the establishment of a Supplementary Register for Nurses of the Chronic Sick. The pressure came from the Local Authorities. To establish a Register for Nurses of a lower grade would be to depreciate all the other Supplementary Registers, on which the names were placed of nurses expert in their own speciality. For the Register proposed for the Chronic Sick, it was probable that those admitted to it would be people unable to pass the Preliminary Examination, which was the one portal to both the General Register and the Supplementary Parts.

Were nurses, after all that had been done to establish adequate standards of training, prepared to support a Register of people whose training was of an inferior standard?

There was considerable adverse discussion on the principle of the establishment of a Supplementary Register of Nurses for the Chronic Sick, whose training was of an inferior standard.

It was agreed to accept the invitation to appoint two delegates, and Miss M. G. Allbutt and Miss M. B. Salton, who were present, consented to serve, with the instruction that the Committee were strongly of opinion that whatever course might be decided upon in dealing with this important question, there should be no depreciation of the General Part of the State Register by the establishment of one for nurses who were unable to attain the standard prescribed through the one portal to the Register at present in force for all parts of the Register.

The Committee was further of opinion that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales had no authority under the Nurses' Registration Act to establish such a Register.

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