

The Congress Arrangements Committee has met three times and directed the arrangements to date.

#### Appointment of Finance Sub-Committee.

The vital question of the finance of the Congress was considered. It was agreed that a Sub-Committee on Finance should be appointed, consisting of the Chairman and Dame Alicia Lloyd Still *ex officio*; Miss M. Breay, Hon. Treasurer; and Miss S. A. Villiers, Hon. Secretary, National Council of Nurses; Miss E. M. Musson, Treasurer, International Council of Nurses; and Miss Isabel Macdonald.

In March, the Official Appeal for Funds to meet the necessary expenses of organisation, estimated at not less than £1,000, was issued by the Finance Committee to the Presidents of Associations affiliated to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, the hostess country, signed by all its members.

The response of these Associations has been most generous, donations given and promised amounting to £946 4s., and we may hope with confidence that the whole amount asked for will be contributed within a few months' time.

#### LEGISLATION AFFECTING THE NURSING PROFESSION.

##### The Nursing of the Chronic Sick.

The Nursing of the Chronic Sick has been under the consideration of Local Authorities, and the Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales has been approached on the matter by the Joint Committee of the County Councils' Association and the

Association of Municipal Corporations, who are apparently in favour of the institution of a Supplementary Part of the Register of Nurses for the Chronic Sick of an inferior grade.

Miss Musson has invited delegates from Nurses' Associations, including the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, to attend a meeting to discuss the desirability or otherwise of establishing a second grade of Nurses for the Chronic Sick, to be held at 20, Portland Place, on November 26th.

Miss M. G. Allbutt (Matron of Fulham Hospital), and Miss M. B. Salton (Matron of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington), have been deputed by the Executive Committee to attend the meeting 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 a Supplementary

Part of the Register for nurses who were unable to attain the standard prescribed through the one portal to the Register at present in force for all its parts.

#### The Midwives Act, 1936.

During the year the "Bill to amend the Midwives Acts," presented in the House of Commons on March 18th by the Minister of Health, has passed through all its stages, and became law on July 31st. It is of vital concern to Registered Nurses, and should be studied by them.

While it is calculated to raise the standard of midwifery throughout England and Wales, it cannot fail to depreciate the standard of nursing in the rural districts, for the reason that it recognises the "Village Nurse - Midwife," a woman who is a State Certified Midwife, but who does not hold the qualification of State Registered Nurse. The attitude of the Ministry of Health to this important question is expressed in a Circular issued under its authority to Local Supervising Authorities under the Midwives Acts. It states: "County Councils will no doubt appreciate the importance, if undue expenditure is to be avoided, of arrang-



Miss G. M. LITTLEBOY, A.R.R.C., S.R.N.,  
Matron, The London Hospital, E., elected Vice-President,  
National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

ing if possible for Nursing Associations to provide a service to cover the whole of the rural parts of the counties. This will, in a number of cases, involve an extension of the activities of the Associations to areas not previously served by them, and as the midwives employed by the Associations normally devote a substantial part of their time to district nursing, and as the contributions made by Local Authorities under the Act will relate only to midwifery and maternity nursing, the Nursing Associations will require additional funds in

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