

of the quadrennial period, but at that time we had arrears.

The dues of the members have been paid up to date, except by countries which are not allowed to send money out of the country, but in each case we believe the money has been banked and will be transmitted to the Treasurer when a favourable opportunity occurs. The question of the dues has been discussed and it has been decided by the Board of Directors that to reduce the *per capita* rate at present would curtail the work of the Council. The dues therefore will remain at fourpence *per capita* in the currency of Great Britain, and by resolution of the Grand Council will in future be quoted in that currency.

The question of the number of Staff and payment had to be considered before the Budget could be drawn up, and certain suggestions were made. After due consideration, expenditure at the rate of £3,027 per annum was sanctioned, and this should leave a margin to place on reserve, which is very necessary for the stability of the Council.

THE REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND SECTIONS.

The Reports of the Standing Committees and Sections were then presented by their respective Chairmen, most of them being taken as read. Membership: Miss Florence H. M. Emory; Programme: Mrs. Bedford Fenwick; Arrangements: Mrs. Bedford Fenwick; Publications: Miss M. M. Roberts; Nominations: Miss S. A. Villiers, J.P.; Education: Miss Isabel Stewart, B.S., A.M.; Public Health: Miss Elisabeth Larsen; Private Duty Nursing: Miss Isabel Macdonald; Revision of Constitution and Bye-laws: Miss Jean I. Gunn, O.B.E.; Finance: Miss E. M. Musson; Advisory: Dame Alicia Lloyd Still.

SECTIONS.

Three Sectional Committee Reports were presented, but not read.

The Committee on Mental Nursing and Hygiene, by Mr. Karin Neuman Rahn.

The Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee, by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

The Committee on Health Statistics, by Mlle. Dominika Pietzcker.

The President then terminated the meeting.

THE PROGRAMME OF THE CONGRESS.

The Sessions of Sections of the Congress opened in four Halls at 3 p.m., all of which were crowded.

Section I. Nursing Education, at which Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D, Great Britain, presided.

Section II. Organization and Administration, the Chair being taken by Miss Bertha Helgestad of Norway.

Section III. Public Health. Chair, the Baroness von Hogendorp of Holland.

Section IV. Some Nursing Problems. Chair, Miss A. Reeves, R.R.C., Irish Free State.

The first Session of the Congress rose at 5 and dispersed to enjoy the various receptions to which they had been invited.

Great interest was shown in the arrangements and hundreds of nurses toured the building—the four halls of various sizes—the Great Hall to be used on several occasions for overflow meetings; the comfortably furnished Rest Room, well supplied with flowers and two nurses in uniform on call; the busy International Office buzzing with enquiries; the Bureau on the first floor, well served by Lady Stewards—more enquiries and more helpful replies; the long literature table, divided in sections, where THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, the *International Nursing Review* and publications, and the special literature of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, were on view or on sale.

RECEPTION AT THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION

On Monday, July 19th, there was a Reception by Her Royal Highness the President, Princess Arthur of Connaught, R.R.C., S.R.N., and the Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association to which 300 Members of Congress had been invited. Some 400 attended and most cheerfully accepted the condition of "overcrowding" that ensued in spite of the fact that doors had been taken off their hinges and movable partitions thrown open. No doubt the large attendance at this gathering was due to the fact that so many nurses felt they wished to meet the first Member of a Royal House to become a State Registered Nurse; there was evidence of this in the enthusiastic cheers which greeted this Princess Charming with the sweet smile as she entered each of the reception rooms in turn. On her arrival the Princess was presented with a beautiful bouquet of pink roses by Miss Beatrice Treasure. A few eminent overseas nurses were presented by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and, after taking tea with the nurses, the Princess said that she would like to do away with the formality of presentations and she would go round the rooms and talk to the nurses as she met them. This gesture of welcome gave great pleasure and many were able to discuss with Her Royal Highness their experiences of nursing in different lands and were very gratified indeed by the interest which she obviously feels in the Profession of which she is a Member. When the Princess had gone a number of guests expressed their delight in having met her—"I am so pleased to have talked to her, and wasn't she just sweet to us!" Especially was their enthusiasm enkindled by the fact that the Princess holds the State qualification and has been awarded the Royal Red Cross. All agreed that she had been a hostess most charming and were delighted, when she was about to enter her car, that she turned and waved a farewell to nurses from many countries assembled on the balcony above.

During the afternoon Miss Dorothy Clarke, one of our greatest English contraltos, sang some of Wagner's beautiful music and, later in the afternoon, a group of old English songs. A number of Members, who were present, helped assiduously to dispense generous hospitality from tea-tables laden with good things, and the domestic staff, from long custom, adroitly threaded their way through the crowd dispensing tea, iced coffee, ices and such like dainties. Members in the country had sent in beautiful flowers to welcome the guests of their Association and great admiration was expressed of the lofty rooms. Again and again was heard the opinion that the nurses who could make their home in such a fine wide street, so close to the beautiful Kensington Gardens, were fortunate indeed; as a matter of fact, none of the amenities of their "home from home" are more widely appreciated by its Members than its proximity to these lovely gardens with their scented walks.

The Association is fortunate in having as its Secretary one who is able to organise so successfully a function such as this. Miss Macdonald has, as the Nursing Profession knows, many gifts of speech, of pen, of paintbrush, of historical research, but she is perhaps never seen to better advantage than at a function such as that held on July 19th, when nurses from many lands were welcomed at the Headquarters of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and made to feel at home by its genial and gifted Secretary.

It was a gay company, full of anticipation of a great week, that trooped out under the Union Jack, hanging from the balcony above. In warm terms was expressed the guests' appreciation of the hospitality of the President and Council, and many hopes too that in the future we would meet again. The Members of the Association heartily reciprocated this wish.

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