

interested in the Study of Nursing History met in London to discuss plans for continuing the History of Nursing Society. The main purposes of the Society are to collect material relating to nursing history and to stimulate its study.

Mrs. Seymer (Great Britain), Miss Isabel M. Stewart (U.S.A.), and Miss Elizabeth Dillner (Sweden) had formed a small Committee to consider future plans—in the meantime it was agreed that the various National Associations should be invited to name a person specially well informed and interested in the study of nursing history, who would be willing to serve as a corresponding member of the Society. This the Committee agreed to do.

Letters were read from the Association of Queen's Nurses, Scottish Branch, from King's College Hospital Nurses' League, and from the Radcliffe Guild of Nurses, Oxford, asking for information concerning affiliation.

Copies of the Constitution and other information had been sent to the Secretaries of these Societies.

NOMINATIONS OF HON. OFFICERS.

It was reported that:

On August 31st, Nomination Papers for the Election of Hon. Officers at the Annual Meeting in November were posted to the Secretaries of 41 Member Associations. By October 1st 25 Nomination Papers were returned to Miss Villiers, Hon. Secretary of the Council.

Vice-President.—Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., S.R.N., Director, National Council of Nurses; Miss A. Lane, A.R.R.C., S.R.N.

Directors.—Miss M. G. Allbutt, S.R.N., Miss M. K. Blyde, S.R.N., Miss Helen Dey, O.B.E., R.R.C., S.R.N., Miss E. Ivett, S.R.N., Miss G. M. Simms, S.R.N., Miss Edith Smith, S.R.N., and Miss I. R. Taylor, S.R.N.

NOMINATIONS OF DELEGATES OF AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS.

The following nominations of Delegates of Affiliated Associations were considered and agreed:

The Royal Waterloo Hospital Nurses' League—Miss M. G. Bennett, S.R.N., in place of Miss Pittman, S.R.N.

The Nightingale Fellowship, St. Thomas's Hospital.—Miss D. S. Coode, S.R.N., in place of Miss Daisy Bridges, S.R.N.

The Matrons' Council of Great Britain—Miss S. H. Vian, S.R.N., in place of Miss F. M. Campbell, S.R.N.

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE RECEIVED AND APPROVED.

1. Report from the Hon. Treasurer and the Audited Statement of Accounts.

2. Report on the Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

(a) Report from the Congress Arrangements Committee.

(b) Report of the Business transacted at the Meetings of the Board of Directors and the Grand Council in July, 1937.

It was agreed that the substance of these Reports should be incorporated in the Annual Report to be presented to the Annual Meeting in November.

It was agreed to hold the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 24th, at 39, Portland Place, London, at 2.30 p.m.

The Meeting then terminated.

THE LEAGUE OF FEVER NURSES.

The League of Fever Nurses held a General Meeting of Members at 39, Portland Place, London, W., on Monday, November 15th. Tea for members and friends was served, after which Miss C. Warner delighted a large audience with a talk on "When I was a child in the 80 s." The President, Miss Solomon, R.R.C., was in the Chair.

THE NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN.

A Meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain was held at the House of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, on Saturday, October 30th, at 3.30 p.m. The President, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., was in the Chair and there was a good attendance of members. In the unavoidable absence of the Hon. Secretary, Miss C. L. Keys-Wells, Miss S. A. Villiers, J.P., Hon. Treasurer, acted in her place.

Arising out of the minutes, in reply to a questionnaire circulated amongst the members, it was decided that about one-third were already on local branches of Women's Organisations, a third wrote expressing the difficulty they had in taking up extra work, and from the remaining third no answer was received.

The President reported the serious injury sustained, in a motor accident, by Miss Ingman, Matron of St. Mary Abbots Hospital, Kensington, and it was proposed by Miss A. M. Bushby and unanimously agreed that a letter should be sent to her, expressing the regret and sympathy of the Matrons' Council.

The election of a member appointed at the last meeting, subject to further information being received, was confirmed. Referring to the contribution of the Matrons' Council to the International Congress Expenses Fund, £10 of which was ear-marked for the expense of a coach conveying a party of delegates to East Wellow to pay a visit of homage to the grave of Florence Nightingale, and afterwards by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Crossfield to take tea at Embley Park, the home for so many years of Florence Nightingale. Miss Cochrane described the day as one of the most outstanding pleasures connected with the Congress. There were other more spectacular and elaborate entertainments most generously provided, but none so intimate as the visit to Embley Park.

The occupants of the Matrons' Council coach were a very happy party, including members of fifteen nations. On the way home the various national anthems were sung and finally everyone in the coach rose up and sang "God Save the King."

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said she thought the National Council of Nurses could congratulate itself on the success of the Congress. The liberality of the Nurses of Great Britain had provided the Congress Arrangements Committee with funds so that no outside appeal was necessary, and there had been an attendance of 3,300 nurses.

An interesting discussion took place on the Nurses' Charter, drawn up by the Labour Party and adopted by the recent Trades Union Congress.

A diversity of opinions were expressed, in the course of which it was pointed out that in drafting the Charter the organisations of Nurses had not been consulted. Most of those present appeared to feel that the nurses had well organised professional Associations in which they could discuss their professional affairs, and that this method was preferable to allying themselves with one political party, as Nurses, in their professional relations with the public, were outside party politics. It was realised, however, that many Nurses nowadays come from trade union homes, and that if they wish to join a Nurses' Trades Union they should be left free to do so.

Women on Boards of Management of Hospitals also came in for discussion. Some members were strongly against them, and others just as strongly said how great a support they had found them. It appears to us that it is impossible to generalise on this question. It depends upon the woman. Some of the type trenchantly described by Florence Nightingale as "fashionable asses" are a thorn in the Matron's side. Others may be, as several Matrons

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)