

NURSING HISTORY.

Unfortunately for the majority of nurses in Training Schools, they have not until recent years been encouraged to study a professional nursing journal and therefore, now that the meeting of our great International Council of Nurses is upon us, they know little of its origin—or the great work it has accomplished throughout the world.

Many nurses do not even know it was founded in London, or who were its promoters and early indefatigable officers.

Between this date and July next we shall quote from the "Nursing Record" (now the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING) some little matters of history with which every Registered Nurse should be acquainted—for instance, that the International Council of Nurses was founded at 20, Hanover Square, London, W.1, then the house of the Royal Society of Medicine, at the second Annual Conference convened by the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, on Saturday, July 1st, 1899.

Miss Isla Stewart, President, was in the Chair, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick brought forward the following Resolution:

"That steps be taken to organise an International Council of Nurses."

This Resolution was seconded from the Chair by Miss Isla Stewart, supported by Miss Margaret Huxley, and was carried unanimously, and with enthusiasm.

The following Resolution was then proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, seconded by Miss M. Huxley, Lady Superintendent of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin.

"That the Hon. Officers and Hon. Members of the Matrons' Council be invited to form a Provisional Committee to consider the best methods of organising an International Council of Nurses, with power to add to their number."

Mrs. Fenwick then proceeded: "I would suggest the nucleus of this Committee should meet together in London at once, and would suggest that Mrs. Quintard and Miss Lucy Walker of the United States, Mrs. Norrie

of Denmark, Miss Kruyse of Holland, and Miss Watkins, Cape Colony, be invited to join the Provisional Committee."

This resolution was carried by acclamation.

Miss Isla Stewart in closing the Meeting said how very much obliged they were to Mrs. Fenwick for her suggestion.

Conference of Provisional Committee.

A Meeting of the majority of the foreign nurses invited to act on the Provisional Committee of the proposed International Council of Nurses, met at the Matrons'

House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, by the kind invitation of Miss Isla Stewart, on the afternoon of Sunday, July 2nd. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, after a short explanation of the present condition of nursing organisation in England, stated that as influential members of the nursing profession in many lands must be consulted as to the best Institution for governing an efficient International Council of Nurses, plenty of time must be given in which to interest these ladies in the Council, and to obtain their advice. She, therefore, formally proposed several resolutions which were unanimously agreed to.

1. "That the proposed International Council of Nurses should be formed of trained nurse delegates, appointed in such numbers and in such a manner as may hereafter be arranged."

2. "That a Provisional International Committee be now formed to carry this idea into practical effect; with power to add to its number nurses representing other countries than those at present represented; to draft a

form of organisation, or the necessary Articles of Association, defining the Constitution of the Council, Bye-laws and Regulations to guide its proceedings; and to take the necessary steps to commence the formation of National Councils of Nurses in various countries and to convene a meeting of delegates then nominated in London or Paris as may be found most suitable in 1900 in order to adopt a Constitution which may be agreed upon, and formally commence the work of the International Council of Nurses."

3. "That the Provisional Committee be now constituted as follows:—

(To be continued.)



MISS ISLA STEWART,
President Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, 1899.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)