

NURSING HISTORY.

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THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE:—

The United Kingdom.—Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Councillor, Matrons' Council; Miss Isla Stewart, Chairman, Matrons' Council; Miss C. M. Beachcroft, Councillor, Matrons' Council; Miss M. N. Cureton, Councillor, Matrons' Council; Miss Gertrude Knight, Vice-chairman, Matrons' Council; Miss Margaret Huxley, Vice-chairman, Matrons' Council; Miss M. Mollett, Vice-chairman, Matrons' Council; Miss M. Breay, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Matrons' Council.

The United States.—Mrs. Hampton Robb, Hon. Member, Matrons' Council; Miss Lavinia Dock, Hon. Member, Matrons' Council; Miss Brennan, Hon. Member, Matrons' Council; Miss Hanna Kindbom, Hon. Member, Matrons' Council; Mrs. Quintard, New York; and Miss Lucy Walker, Philadelphia.

Canada.—Miss Snively, Hon. Member, Matrons' Council; and Miss Murray, Toronto.

New Zealand.—Mrs. Grace Neill, Hon. Member, Matrons' Council.

New South Wales.—Miss McGahey, Hon. Member, Matrons' Council.

Victoria.—Miss M. Farquharson, Hon. Member, Matrons' Council.

Holland.—Miss Reijnvaan, Hon. Member, Matrons' Council; Miss Krüysse, Amsterdam.

To represent countries where the Matrons' Council have not yet an Honorary Member:

Cape Colony.—Sister Henrietta, of Kimberley.

Denmark.—Mrs. Gordon Norrie, Corresponding Secretary of the Danish National Council of Women."

It was further agreed that Miss M. Breay should, in the initial stages of the proceedings, act as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Provisional Committee.

It was agreed that English should be the language used in conducting the business of the International Council of Nurses.

The members of the Committee present requested that the English members should draft the suggested Constitution, and that it should be sent round to all the international members, so that they might duly consider it and return it with their suggestions before the Constitution and Bye-Laws were presented to the assembled delegates in 1900. This was agreed to.

It was unanimously agreed that the proposal to organise an International Council of Nurses should be brought to the notice of the heads of Nurses' Training Schools and organised societies of Nurses, by each country's representatives, with a view to making the Council as efficient and representative as possible.

The meeting then adjourned.

DRAFTING THE CONSTITUTION.

From July, 1899, to July, 1900, the Provisional Committee were engaged in drawing up the Draft Constitution, which was sent to all its members with a request for their comments and criticisms.

It was also forwarded to the American Society of Superintendents, the National Associated Alumnae of the United States, and the Associations of Nurses in Holland and Denmark, with the same request.

MEETING OF THE PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE, JULY 5th, 1900.

The business transacted at the meeting of the Provisional Committee of the International Council of Nurses, held at the Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, on July 5th, 1900 included:

1. The adoption of the Constitution.

2. The election of the Hon. Officers.

The Draft Constitution was considered and, after amendment in the light of suggestions and criticisms from the absent members of the Provisional Committee to whom it had been circulated, on the proposition of Miss Isla Stewart, seconded by Miss M. Mollett, it was adopted. With a few minor amendments it has served as the Constitution under which the Council worked and has developed until its revision at Helsingfors in 1925, when it was decided to establish a Headquarters at Geneva with a salaried secretarial staff.

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION.

We, nurses of all nations, sincerely believing that the best good of our Profession will be advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy and purpose, do hereby band ourselves in a confederation of workers to further the efficient care of the sick, and to secure the honour and the interests of the Nursing Profession.

That we may more successfully prosecute this work we adopt the following:

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

1. The Federation shall be called the International Council of Nurses.

Objects of the International Council of Nurses.

(a) To provide a means of communication between the Nurses of all nations and to afford facilities for the interchange of international hospitality.

(b) To provide opportunities for nurses to meet together from all parts of the world, to confer upon questions relating to the welfare of their Patients and their Profession.

Ten Articles were then adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The voting papers for the election of officers gave the following results:

President: Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Great Britain.

Hon. Secretary: Miss Lavinia L. Dock, United States of America.

Hon. Treasurer: Miss Mary A. Snively, Canada.

All of whom expressed their willingness to act.

PROPOSITION BY MISS DOCK.

Congress to Celebrate the 20th Century.

The following proposition made by Miss Dock was then considered:—

"That the Provisional Committee arrange that, after the election of Officers and the adoption of the Constitution, a Committee be appointed from the Canadian and American Members to make arrangements for a Nursing Congress next year."

It was agreed:—

"That Miss Dock and Miss Snively be deputed to form a Committee of Arrangements to organise the Congress, with power to add to their number."

(To be continued.)

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