

Miss Susan Francis as Chairman of the Congress Arrangements Committee will choose her own Committee Members.

In July we received from Miss Musson, the Treasurer, a copy of the Balance Sheet for the year 1937, together with the Auditors' Report, and also a very interesting report of the work at Headquarters from Miss Schwarzenberg.

The I.C.N. has been invited by the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing to submit a memorandum of evidence in any matters covered by the terms of reference, and our Council was invited to give full co-operation in the preparation of the Memorandum; a lengthy questionnaire was submitted.

It would appear that information from other countries might be usefully submitted by the International Council of Nurses, but that no useful purpose would result from our National Council submitting evidence through the International, which our Government had failed to invite from our National body, and which has been supplied through individual Nurses Associations in England in considerable detail.

OBITUARY.

MISS GERTRUDE A. ROGERS, S.R.N.

We have to record with deep regret the deaths during the year of Miss Gertrude A. Rogers, a Founder Member of the National Council of Nurses, and Mrs. Edith MacGregor Rome, R.R.C.

Miss Rogers, greatly beloved and universally respected, was a pioneer nurse who trained in 1875 at the Leicester Infirmary, where she subsequently held the position of Sister, going from there, on the invitation of Bishop Webb to found a hospital in Bloemfontein. At the time of the first Boer War she went to the front, receiving some years later the South African Medal for her work at that time. In 1883, she was appointed Lady Superintendent of the Leicester Infirmary, where under her able guidance the training school attained a high reputation in the hospital world, and where she started the first Preliminary Training School in the Provinces.

Miss Rogers allied herself with many forward movements, and was one of the signatories to the Royal Charter of the Royal British Nurses' Association, steadily supporting the demand for State Registration of Nurses. She was a Vice-President of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and of the National Council of Nurses, President of the Leicester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League, and a Member of the International Council of Nurses. During the Great War she did good work at St. John's Gate in connection with the organisation of the Trained Nurses' Branch of St. John Ambulance Association.

MRS. EDITH MACGREGOR ROME, R.R.C., S.R.N.

Mrs. Edith MacGregor Rome (*née* Sherriff MacGregor), who was trained at Westminster Hospital and subsequently Assistant Matron of the Warneford Hospital, Leamington, and Matron of the Paddington Green Children's Hospital, served with distinction during the Great War, receiving the Royal Red Cross, 1st Class, and the Order of Marie Regina of Rumania, 1st Class, and the Order of St. Anne of Russia. She was Matron-in-Chief of the British Red Cross Society and a President of the College of Nursing. She is sincerely regretted by a large circle of friends; she was always kindly, sympathetic and courteous to those colleagues with whom she was brought in contact.

RESOLUTIONS RE THE CONSTITUTION CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL.

Resolutions proposing amendments to the Constitution of the National Council were submitted for consideration to the Executive Committee, and after discussion the following Resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"That the Constitution of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain shall not be amended in sections, but a Special Sub-Committee consisting of not more than nine members and the *ex-officio* Hon. Officers shall be appointed to consider the Constitution as a whole and make recommendations to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be specially summoned at an early date."

It was agreed that it be reported to the Grand Council that the Executive Committee recommended that a Special Sub-Committee be formed to deal with the matter.

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER A RESOLUTION AGREED TO AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GRAND COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 24th, 1937.

A Special Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Wednesday, May 4th, 1938, to consider the Resolution agreed to at the Annual Meeting of the Grand Council on November 24th, 1937, "To enquire into and report upon the conduct of business by the Board of Directors of the International Council of Nurses on July 25th, 1937, whereby the name of the official nominee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain was excluded from the ballot for the election of members of the Florence Nightingale Foundation Standing Committee."

The President was in the Chair.

The Chairman called upon Miss Isabel Macdonald, the proposer of the Resolution, to read a statement resulting from the enquiries made.

Miss Macdonald presented for consideration the following Report based on available and irrefutable evidence, which proved the disfranchisement of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain in connection with the Florence Nightingale Foundation Standing Committee.

The Report of the Enquiry.

A great deal of confusion, dissatisfaction and indeed indignation has arisen, as you are aware, on certain incidents connected with the last Meeting of the Board of Directors of the International Council of Nurses on July 25th, 1937. Many of those who were present at the last Meeting of the Grand Council of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain felt it to be incumbent upon that Council to make an effort to arrive at some conclusion as to why the name of its nominee for the Florence Nightingale Foundation Standing Committee had been excluded from the Ballot when the Members of that Committee were elected. The information now available in reply to enquiries at Headquarters, by the Hon. Secretary of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, indicates that the new constitution of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee and the election of the personnel of this Committee arose on methods of procedure that, according to the constitution of the International Council of Nurses, were irregular.

To commence with we find information in a letter from Miss Gunn dated December 28th, 1937, on July 12th, 1937, the following Resolution was passed by the Board of Directors conveying an instruction to the Committee on Revision of Constitution and By-laws:—

"That the International Council of Nurses Committee on Revision of Constitution and By-laws be requested to prepare for presentation on Tuesday a by-law providing for the method of appointing representatives from the International Council of Nurses to the Grand Council of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation."

That is not, however, a Resolution which calls for discussion here beyond the fact that it shows that certain

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)