

instructions were given to the Committee on Revision of the Constitution and By-laws and that quite clearly the Board of Directors assumed, as they were entitled to, that the Committee on Revision of the Constitution and By-laws would meet and do its work, in other words that it would prepare properly considered recommendations for submission to the Board of Directors and the Grand Council.

Ultimately the two following Resolutions were placed before the Board of Directors and the Grand Council:—

(a) "The Florence Nightingale Committee shall consist of five persons who shall represent the International Council of Nurses on the Grand Council of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation. The five members shall represent two English speaking and three non-English speaking countries. The President of the International Council of Nurses shall be Chairman of the Committee."

(b) "The Board of Directors shall nominate three members for appointment to the Committee of Management of the Florence Nightingale Foundation, the three members to be so nominated to be actively engaged in Nursing Education and in these nominations the International character of the International Council of Nurses shall be kept in mind."

Now comes the question of the origin of these Resolutions. Were they, in accordance with the constitution and by-laws, considered and drafted for presentation to the appropriate bodies by the Committee on Revision of the Constitution and By-laws? In fact, the question is did this Committee meet? Miss Gunn, Chairman of the Committee, who moved the Resolutions in the Board of Directors and the Grand Council, states that it did and that she summoned it verbally, whilst Miss Breay, a Member of the Committee, states that she received no notice of a Meeting verbal or otherwise. Therefore, for the information of this Meeting, enquiry has been made at the Headquarters of the International Council of Nurses, and the official information received from the Secretary is "that she knows that no official Meeting of either the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee or of the Committee on Revision of the Constitution and By-laws was held." On this it would appear that the instruction of the Board of Directors on July 12th (the date mentioned in Miss Gunn's letter) was not conveyed to the Committee responsible for drafting and bringing these Resolutions before the Board of Directors and the Grand Council. Both of these bodies received the Resolutions in the belief that, in accordance with the Constitution and the Board's own instructions, they were sent up from the Committee on Revision of Constitution and By-laws. But this Committee was not summoned, and the whole process of carrying through these Resolutions was therefore unconstitutional and irregular.

That is the position so far as the adoption of the Resolutions under discussion are concerned, and now we come to circumstances arising when they were put into operation.

The first of these Resolutions provides that the Florence Nightingale Foundation Standing Committee shall consist of five persons two of whom shall be representative of English and three of non-English speaking countries. Also in the Resolution a perfectly new principle is adopted—the President of the International Council of Nurses is made the Chairman of the Florence Nightingale Foundation Standing Committee. Why? The President of the International Council of Nurses is *ex-officio* a member of all committees, and wherein lay the purpose or the benefit of thus cutting down the number to one of the seats (for English speaking countries) to be balloted for in this Committee. In no other case do we provide that the President is automatically Chairman of a Standing Com-

mittee. But now comes the real point of the enquiry. Why did no ballot take place for the remaining seat for an English-speaking delegate, why in fact, was the name of the nominee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain excluded from the Ballot although it had been duly sent up to Headquarters and acknowledged there? With much enthusiasm Miss Alexander moved that Dame Alicia Lloyd Still be informed that her appointment was carried unanimously. How? By the exclusion of the second nominee from the Ballot! Next the Board proceeded to vote for the other Members of the Committee and then six names went into the ballot for three vacancies. That is the position and now we are left with the question—Why did the Committee on the Constitution and By-laws not meet? Who gave to these Resolutions the very careful consideration referred to by Miss Simpson in the *Canadian Journal of Nursing*? Certainly it was not the body authorised to do so. And then comes the most important question of all to this Council. Why was the name of its nominee excluded from the Ballot at the Meeting of the Board of Directors on the 25th July, when the election of the Florence Nightingale Foundation Standing Committee took place? I put these principal points forward for your consideration."

At the close of the discussion on the enquiry it was moved by Miss Isabel Macdonald, seconded by Miss M. S. Cochrane, and carried *nem. con.* that the following Report be made to the Grand Council of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain as the Finding of the Executive Committee on the enquiry carried out by the instruction of the Council:—

#### The Finding of the Executive Committee.

That the methods adopted for the constitution of the Florence Nightingale Foundation Standing Committee were unconstitutional and irregular in that the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee was never summoned to make recommendations, the Committee on Revision of Constitution and By-laws was never summoned to review the proposed amendments, and the constitution of the Florence Nightingale Foundation Standing Committee, with its restrictive limitations as to Membership, was drafted by some person or persons unknown and produced to the Board of Directors without submission to the Committee on Revision of the Constitution and By-laws.

Further that the name of the nominee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain to the Florence Nightingale Foundation Standing Committee was withheld from the Ballot of the Meeting of the Board of Directors on July 25th, 1937, so that there was no ballot for the seat that remained for an English-speaking representative, after the unprecedented course had been adopted of appointing the President of the International Council of Nurses Chairman of this Standing Committee under a Resolution of the origin of which we are still ignorant.

This Report is respectfully submitted on behalf of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

Signed ETHEL G. FENWICK,  
President.

#### THE REPORT ADOPTED.

It was proposed by Miss R. A. Cox-Davies, seconded by Miss E. M. Musson, and agreed, that the Report of the Executive Committee be received. After some slight amendment it was proposed by Miss I. Macdonald, seconded by Miss G. Le Geyt, and agreed, that the Report be adopted.

#### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL BUSINESS.

Miss I. Macdonald then brought forward the following proposal and Resolution:—

"I beg to move that a copy of the Report of the Special

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