

**Notification of Change of President.***Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association.*

Miss M. Wright in place of Miss H. McLoughlin.

*Association of Scottish Queen's Superintendents.*

Miss I. Hamilton in place of Miss A. M. Fraser.

**Nomination of Delegates.***Association of Scottish Queen's Superintendents.*

Miss Gibb and Miss Thompson in place of Miss Chalmers and Miss Hamilton.

**A SHORT REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT.**

The President presented the following short report :—

"After the declaration of war on September 3rd, 1939, it at once became apparent that members of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain would be earnestly engaged in National Service throughout the country, and that representative meetings would be impossible.

"I, therefore, sent out a letter, together with the Audited Accounts, to the Hon. Officers and Presidents of all affiliated associations, expressing this opinion.

"From replies, from the majority of those addressed, it was apparent that they were in favour of a cessation of activities, thus no meetings have been summoned since April 18th, 1939, and officers and committees have remained unchanged.

"No inconvenience has apparently been caused by this arrangement, as both National and International affairs have received attention.

"Thirteen societies intimated approval, seven intimated that they were not wholly in favour of discontinuing meetings."

**THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL SUB-COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO CONSIDER THE REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.**

In a short statement on the appointment and work of the Special Sub-Committee appointed to consider the Constitution of the National Council of Nurses as a whole, and to make recommendations to the Executive Committee, it was reported that the Sub-Committee met at 19, Queen's Gate, on May 10th, June 7th and June 30th, 1939, and had agreed on numerous amendments.

The Chairman briefly referred to the recommendations.

A final meeting of the Committee to go carefully through the suggestions and draft its report to the Executive Committee was to have been held. This was not practicable owing to the outbreak of war.

The report was, therefore, not on the agenda for consideration in detail.

But, broadly speaking, the Chairman reported that the recommendations suggested would entail considerable expenditure.

Hitherto the finances of the National Council have been mainly a source of income in support of the International Council of Nurses, leaving but an infinitesimal sum available for national organisation, the work having been of a voluntary nature, made possible by the personal knowledge and devotion of the late Hon. Treasurer, Miss Margaret Breay.

The Chairman stated that before the National Council can be adequately financed, the high per capita fee to the International Council of Nurses must be reconsidered, and an income of at least £500 per annum available for conduct of business and general maintenance of the National Council.

During the war no such policy is possible, but now that the voluntary organisers are passing away, they must be replaced in the future by an adequately remunerated staff. In the meanwhile, is it too much to hope that Registered Nurses in this country may take the trouble to qualify

themselves, as Miss Calista Banwarth is evidently doing in the International office, by acquiring sound knowledge of national and international history and procedure?

Some Members present were anxious that the meetings of the Executive Committee should be resumed, and it was proposed by Miss M. B. Monk, seconded by Miss R. E. Darbyshire, and agreed, that if circumstances permit three meetings be held in the year.

The Chairman informed the Committee that when the final meeting of the Special Sub-Committee had taken place and the Constitution had been re-drafted, a copy would be forwarded to each member of the Executive Committee for the consideration of the organisation she represents.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT.**

The Chairman presented the following financial statement :—

**No. 1 ACCOUNT, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.**

<i>Receipts.</i>	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward 1st October, 1939	66	10	2
Annual Dues ... ..	4	15	0
<i>Per Capita</i> Contribution to National Council of Nurses of Great Britain subscription to the International Council of Nurses ...	47	11	0
	£118	16	2

<i>Payments</i>	£	s.	d.
Stamps ... ..	3	0	0
Stationery and Messengers ... ..	1	0	0
Clerical Services ... ..	6	0	0
Balance at Bank ... ..	108	16	2
	£118	16	2

Interest on Investment of £1,000 3½% Conversion Loan, due on April 1st, 1940, amount due when Income Tax has been deducted, £12.

**No. 2 ACCOUNT, FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE SCHOLARSHIP FUND.**

Since the Accounts were audited on September 30th, 1939, we have received a generous donation of £20 from the Nursing Staff of the Royal Mental Hospital, Glasgow, this together with the Balance brought forward on October 1st, 1939, makes a Balance at the Bank of £60 2s. 3d.

It was proposed by Dame Ellen Musson, seconded by Miss M. B. Monk, and agreed, that the following Resolution be forwarded to the Midland Bank :—

**Resolution.**

"That Miss Susan A. Villiers, Hon. Secretary, be empowered to sign cheques, to be countersigned by the President, until such time as a new Treasurer is appointed."

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the question of Finance was one which would have to be carefully considered; more clerical help would be necessary if Meetings were resumed.

Dame Ellen Musson proposed, Miss H. Dey seconded, and it was agreed that a sum of £30 be voted for clerical help until the next Meeting of the Executive Committee.

**THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.**

It was reported that by the courtesy of Dean Effie Taylor, President of the International Council of Nurses, our National Council has been kept in touch with the arrangements made for the transfer of Headquarters of the I.C.N. from London to New Haven, Connecticut, in the United States of America.

This interesting information has therefore appeared in our official organ, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, in December, 1939 and January, 1940, and it is to be hoped has been read by those present.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)