

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

A meeting of the Grand Council of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain was held at the Nurses' Home, Guy's Hospital, on Friday, April 5, 1946, at 2.30 p.m. Dame Ellen Musson (President) was in the Chair. There was a good attendance of members. The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The following Resolutions were then considered:—

(a) From Miss D. S. Coode:

"That the National Council of Nurses be asked to consider, during the coming year, a reduction in the fees to be paid by large Nationally organised Associations when their membership exceeds a certain figure—say, 10,000."

It was agreed this Resolution should be considered during the year.

(b) From the Royal College of Nursing:

(1) That the title be altered to "The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland."

There was some objection to the addition to the title of Northern Ireland, as Northern Ireland has its own Governor, Parliament, and Premier and its own Joint Nursing and Midwives' Council—and reciprocal registration of Nurses and Midwives with Great Britain.

The addition in the title of the National Council was agreed.

(2) "That a *per capita* fee of 8d. up to full membership to the National Council, and 4d. to the International Council, be paid for one year, when the position would be reviewed."

This Resolution was passed.

(c) From the London Hospital Nurses' League:

"That Article IV. (b) (c) should read: 'National Associations of qualified nurses of approved Complete training Schools' instead of 'National Associations of Graduates.'"

This Resolution was not passed.

(d) From the Bradford Royal Infirmary Nurses' League: Article III., para. v., should read:

"To promote the educational and economic and other interests of the Nursing Profession for the purpose of improving its service to the sick and raising the standard of education and professional ethics."

This Resolution was agreed.

The revised Constitution as a whole was then adopted.

SUGGESTED RULES.

A long list of suggested Rules for the organisation and conduct of business were considered, and after much discussion, agreed.

Evidently an immense amount of time has been given to the Consideration of the Constitution. We are of opinion, however, that in the present democratic age it will need considerable modification—the time has passed for the control of the many by the few.

As the Constitution of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain stands, the whole power is in the hands of the ten hon. officers, who act as an Executive Committee, and the overwhelming number of delegates from a very limited number of large societies of nurses.

We feel sure that after the Congress of the International Council of Nurses to be held in the U.S.A. next year, our own National Council must become so, not only in title but in fact.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

To The Members of the Board of Directors of the International Council of Nurses from The President, Miss Effie Taylor, R.N. :—

March 15th, 1946.

DEAR PRESIDENT: The first official meeting of the Board of Directors of the International Council of Nurses will be held in London, England, in the Royal College of Nursing, Ltd., Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square, on September 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1946.

The last regular meeting was held in London, in July, 1939. At this time arrangements were made, in the event of war, to transfer, temporarily, the Headquarters office to the United States of America. The responsibility for making the necessary changes, and for carrying on the work in the interim until another Board Meeting could be held, was left with the President, the Treasurer, and the Executive Secretary. Since that time no official meeting of the Board has been held.

An unofficial Conference of Board and Committee members available in the U.S.A. was held in New York City, in October, 1944, and a similar Conference of Board Members available in London was held in September, 1945, prior to the meeting of the Committee of Management of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

The President of the I.C.N. was invited to attend the meeting of the Committee of Management on September 14th. The three representatives of the I.C.N. on that Committee (Miss Lucy Duff-Grant, Miss Venny Snellman, and Miss Isabel Stewart) were also present. This was the first regular meeting of the Committee held since 1939.

Minutes of the Conference of Board Members held in the U.S.A., in 1944, and of that held in London in 1945, were forwarded to the members of the I.C.N. Board of Directors, and we trust, in spite of difficult and uncertain postal service, that these were received and have been given consideration.

In an earlier letter sent out from the I.C.N. Headquarters' office, it was intimated that the Board Meeting would be held in the U.S.A. during the winter or Spring of 1946. The change of place and date was made after conference with the European members who stated that it would not be possible for them to meet in the U.S.A. before the Spring or summer of 1947. Since the work of the I.C.N. requires that the Board meet as soon as possible it was suggested that we call the meeting in London, in September of this year. With this we trust you are in accord.

As you will realise there are a great many imminent questions awaiting discussion when we meet in London in September. It is, therefore, hoped that the members will be ready to offer their opinions concerning comprehensive and inclusive reorganisation plans for our International Organisations.

Questions relating to the adequacy of our present machinery for the efficient discharge of our international functions should be thought through with clear and unbiased judgment in the light of our recent experiences. We must have vision to plan for the future, and be prepared to discuss the broadening functions of Nursing in relation to other changes which are taking place throughout the world, without placing too great an

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