

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

A meeting of the Grand Council of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was held at the London Hospital, by the kind permission of Sir John Mann, Bart., on November 21st.

The President, Miss Daisy C. Bridges occupied the chair, supported by Miss B. M. Monk, C.B.E., Hon. Treasurer, and Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Hon. Secretary.

The President officially reported the death on March 13th last, of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Founder, and First President, of the National Council of Nurses, an indefatigable fighter for what she thought was right, a great professional organiser and pioneer of world-wide reputation. Members present stood in silent tribute.

Welcome to New Members.

The President reported that the following Leagues had been admitted to the National Council:—

St. Heliers Hospital League of Nurses.

Royal Hants County Hospital Nurses League.

Whipps Cross Hospital Nurses League.

Correspondence.

An invitation from the Minister of Health was reported, to submit the views of the National Council on the Report of the Working Party on the Recruitment and Training of Nurses.

The President said that the Board of Directors had drawn up a reply; but as there had not been time to obtain the considered opinion of the affiliated Associations of Nurses, it was agreed that the Minister of Health be asked to receive further views at a later date.

Letters were reported from the Danish Council of Nurses and from the Canadian Nurses Association suggesting that nurses from these countries and British Nurses might prepare for exchange visits during the coming summer. These letters were sympathetically received.

On reporting the receipt of a letter from Miss Anna Schwarzenberg upon her resignation from the Executive Secretaryship of the International Council of Nurses, Dame Ellen Musson proposed, and it was agreed, that a letter of thanks be sent to Miss Schwarzenberg for her work on behalf of the International Council of Nurses, with the wish that her health be soon fully restored.

A request was reported from the Minister of Health asking for nominations of five persons to represent the Ministry on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. The following nominations were agreed: Dr. Macaulay, Dame Kathrine Watt, Miss Wood, Miss Gebhard and Miss Crothers.

The President's Address.

The President reported her attendance at the International Congress of Nurses in U.S.A. last May, at which 31 countries were represented, and at which Dame Ellen Musson had been elected an Hon. Member of the International Council of Nurses.

This report was received with pleasure and Miss Bridges was duly thanked.

The Hon. Secretary's Report.

Miss M. S. Cochrane read her Report of the year's working, and emphasised the fact that no Headquarters had yet been found.

The Hon. Treasurer's Report.

Miss B. M. Monk, the Hon. Treasurer, reported that there were now 47 Leagues of Nurses affiliated to the National Council. She remarked that when a house is found to accommodate the National Council, more money will be needed to carry on the work. She then read the Balance Sheets which were adopted.

Election of Hon. Officers.

Miss K. M. Blyde was elected as Vice-President of the National Council; and Miss G. E. Davies and Miss E. J. Merry were elected as Directors to serve for a period of three years.

Notes from the Royal College of Nursing.

The Royal College of Nursing wished the per capita fee to the International Council of Nurses reviewed; also that they considered their representation inadequate on the Grand Council; and they asked for consideration concerning the formation of an International Student Nurses' Council.

The President in reply said that a questionnaire was being prepared for submission to the affiliated associations in the National Council, when information would be sought concerning the wishes of the constituent bodies.

In connection with the Royal College of Nursing and representation on the Grand Council, she reminded members that in the International Council of Nurses, whose constitution had to be adhered to, the large American Nurses' Association and the small Filipino Nurses' Association were accorded the same representation.

In consideration of the preparation of the questionnaire referred to, the Royal College of Nursing agreed that these matters be laid on the table.

Appointment of Auditors.

It was agreed to re-appoint Messrs. Reeves, Gothard and Farries as auditors to the Council for the coming year. Miss B. M. Monk, the Hon. Treasurer, paid a warm tribute to their services, and said how willing they always were to help her in any way possible.

Appointment of Hon. Solicitors.

It was agreed to re-appoint Messrs. Godden, Holme & Co., as Hon. Solicitors to the Council.

Miss M. S. Cochrane, the Hon. Secretary spoke warmly of their services when approached.

Votes of Thanks.

An appreciative vote of thanks was accorded the President; and a special vote of thanks was given Miss C. Alexander, the Matron, and Sir John Mann, Bart., for the very kind hospitality given to the National Council by the London Hospital.

The meeting then terminated, and all members enjoyed a most delicious tea.

CANADIAN NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

We learn from *The Canadian Nurse* that when the War Memorial Committee of the Canadian Nurses' Association first outlined the amounts required from each province to permit the full materialisation of the Memorial plans to help rebuild the nursing libraries in the war-torn countries, the provincial representatives at the Executive Committee meeting gasped slightly, then passed the figures. The provincial nurses' associations swung into action and collections began.

On direction from the C.N.A. Executive Committee, the War Memorial Committee has ordered over a thousand medical and nursing texts which will be sent as the first instalment of the libraries to the twenty-two countries which felt the impact of war most grievously. This purchase will use up most of the moneys which had been received up to July 1st, 1947. A lot of books, you may say! Yet that purchase represents only fifty books to a country.

The book-plate, designed by Miss Joyce Rea, R.N., of Vancouver, embodies the insignia worn by the nursing sisters in the three Services, and will be affixed to the cover of each book before it is sent overseas.

The Canadian nurses, in their generosity, will help thousands of their colleagues who suffered material loss during the 1939-1945 World War.

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