

## 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 in the Nurses' Home of the Westminster Hospital, London, by kind permission of Miss Ceris Jones, the Matron, and the governors of the hospital, on November 24th, 1949.

After Miss Ceris Jones had welcomed the delegates to Westminster Hospital, the President, Miss K. F. Armstrong, who occupied the chair, commenced the work on the agenda by making a small correction in the printed form of the Amended Constitution.

She also announced that the Nurses' Bill was that day being presented to the House of Lords in its final form.

It was with regret that the delegates present learned that Miss C. Alexander was unable to attend owing to indisposition.

### Welcome to New Members.

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

The Association of Queen's Nurses (being the amalgamation of the Queen's Superintendents and the Queen's Nurses Leagues); the Cardiff Royal Infirmary Nurses League; the Northampton General Hospital Nurses League; the Nottingham General Hospital Nurses League; the St. Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, Nurses League; the Pendlebury Hospital Nurses League; the Mothercraft Training Society Nurses League; and the West Suffolk Hospital Nurses League.

### Election of Honorary Officers.

#### VICE-PRESIDENT.

As only one nomination was made, Miss C. H. Alexander was unanimously elected as Vice-President.

#### TWO DIRECTORS.

Eleven nominations were made for two seats as Directors. An election took place, and Miss D. Bridges, Executive Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, and Miss J. Addison, the Matron of the Royal Free Hospital, were the successful candidates.

### Correspondence.

At the Executive Meeting of the National Council of Nurses held in October, a letter was considered from the International Council of Nurses, a society in official relationship with the World Health Organisation, containing some resolutions in connection with the Covenant on Human Rights, and in particular: "No one shall be subjected to any form of physical mutilation or medical or scientific experimentation against their will."

Specific limitations had been added by the United States of America and Denmark; all have been carefully considered by the Executive Committee and deductions agreed.

As Royal College of Nursing delegates considered this clause might be designed to cover undesirable practices, further discussion took place.

As this subject had been reopened after agreement by the Executive Committee, Miss Dey was disturbed in case business done at one meeting could be undone at a future meeting.

This matter was then closed.

The President reported that some foreign countries had consulted the National Council on such matters as schemes of insurance, superannuation and pensions, and had been sent information.

The President reported that she had attended the conference of the Western European Group of Presidents in

Zurich in August, but could not accept the invitation to be present at the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the Danish Council of Nurses, but that Miss Bridges had attended as Executive Secretary of the International Council of Nurses.

In connection with the Committee for Assisting Recovery in Europe, the American Nurses Association could be instrumental in sending collections of books most acceptable to nurses.

As it was considered we in this country were better off than the nurses in the occupied countries it was thought that packages of books should go to them.

It was then suggested that a set of books might be sent to the library of the Royal College of Nursing, to the British College of Nurses Library, and a set to Scotland.

It was reported that Holland had requested material *re* the Whitley Council.

The National Council of Nurses had been approached by the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Scholarships Fund to sponsor a scholarship. As the National Council of Nurses had only £18 in the Scholarships Fund, this would be impossible this year.

### The President's Address.

The President reported a year of progress and work; the new constitution had been put in force, the headquarters had been established in the offices of the General Nursing Council, and many nurses from abroad had been welcomed during the year.

Cards had been sent out to all affiliated associations, upon which to insert the names and other particulars of their members, which when returned to headquarters would be sorted, and an exact membership could be ascertained; this had been an expensive piece of work.

The publication of the *Quarterly News Letter* has been continued.

The President reminded the delegates that on January 1st, 1950, the 8d. *per capita* contribution to the International Council of Nurses would commence.

### The Honorary Treasurer's Report.

Miss M. M. Edwards, the Honorary Treasurer, presented her audited accounts for the year ended September 30th, 1949, from which she was able successfully to budget for the work to be carried on during the next twelve months.

### The Report of the Executive Secretary.

Miss Frances Rowe presented her report in which she spoke of the work during the past year.

She regretfully reported the resignation from the National Council of the Society of Registered Male Nurses; the Newcastle General Hospital Nurses League; the Glasgow Royal Infirmary Nurses League; the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary Nurses League; and the Scottish Matrons Association.

Votes of thanks were accorded the officers, and the meeting terminated. The delegates were invited by Miss Ceris Jones to a delicious tea.

### Letter to the Editor.

"'Ave yer bought the street, Bill?"

Nov. 20th, 1949.

Holloway, London, N.19.

DEAR MADAM,

Many thanks for the book you have kindly sent me, *Journal of Nursing* which me and my family photo appear, and which was a very nice story which we was so pleased to have, if you did not send it I wish to thank those who did.

Yours sincerely,

MR. J. MARRIATT,  
Coster King.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)