

The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

MEMBERS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were greatly privileged to hold their meeting in the Great Hall at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in the City of London, on November 23rd, 1950, at which the President, Miss K. A. Armstrong, presided.

Miss J. M. Loveridge, the Matron, welcomed the Grand Council to St. Bartholomew's Hospital on behalf of the Governors.

After two agreed corrections, the Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed and signed.

Welcome to New Members.

The Nurses' Leagues of St. Andrew's Hospital, Bow, the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, the Royal West Sussex Hospital, Chichester, the Bromley Hospital and the Connaught Hospital, Walthamstow, were admitted to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Election of Honorary Officers.

Vice-President.

Four nominations were made for one seat as Vice-President. An election was held and Miss G. E. Davies, late Registrar, General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and Treasurer to the International Council of Nurses, polled the highest number of votes.

Two Directors.

Fourteen nominations were made for two seats on the Board of Directors. An election was held and Dame Katharine Watt, D.B.E., R.R.C., late Chief Nursing Adviser, Ministry of Health, and Miss M. Williams, Matron at Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, London, were elected Directors.

Arising out of the Minutes.

The Chairman reminded members that in Hospital Planning—and the position of the Nurse—it had been decided to appoint an Advisory Committee, and it was decided that some contribution could be made in this field by the National Council of Nurses—and bearing in mind that the Ward Sister could be invaluable in making useful suggestions.

Correspondence.

The Chairman reported that condolences had been sent to the Swedish Nurses' Association on the recent death of their King Gustav V.

Notice had been received that the Board of Directors, International Council of Nurses, were meeting in Brussels in August, 1951, and any notes to be included in the Agenda must be received by March, 1951.

The appointment of Miss Ellen Johanne Broe as Director of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation had been made known.

Miss K. Elfverson, Vice-President, Swedish Nurses' Association, had sent sincere thanks for the hospitality shown by members of the National Council of Nurses to the Swedish Matrons who visited this country last August.

The Queen's Nurses' Association considers that, in connection with the Festival of Britain, when large numbers of nurses may be visiting Britain, some courses might be arranged for them, and places of cultural interest visited.

Resignations.

It was with regret that the resignation from the Council

of the Radcliffe Guild of Nurses, and the Lewisham Hospital Nurses' League (League disbanded) were received.

Thanks were expressed to Miss K. Blyde, the retiring Vice-President, and to Miss E. J. Merry and Miss G. E. Davies (whose services would be retained as Vice-President), retiring Directors, for the services they had rendered during their term of office.

The President's Address.

Miss K. Armstrong said the year under review had not been so spectacular as 1949 when the International Conference of Nurses was held in Stockholm.

An important piece of work had been completed—the elimination of duplication of membership, the estimate of which is 51,000.

Miss G. E. Davies attended the dedication of the British Commonwealth and Empire Nurses' War Memorial in Westminster Abbey on November 2nd, on behalf of the National Council of Nurses, and the President invited her to give the members a description of the ceremony.

The Hon. Treasurer's Report.

Miss M. M. Edwards, M.V.O., presented the Balance Sheet, the General Fund Account, the Hospitality Account and the Publicity Account, giving detailed information concerning the receipts and expenditure of the Council.

The Report of the Finance Committee.

It was reported that the Standing Finance Committee had held office for 12 months, and that all estimates were carefully scrutinised.

It had become necessary to increase the price of the News Letter from 3d. to 6d. per copy.

Three rooms were now being rented from the General Nursing Council at an annual sum of £275.

The Executive Secretary's Report.

Miss F. Rowe gave a short report of her department for the 12 months ending on September 30th.

She spoke of the work in estimating the membership of the National Council by the cards provided.

Re-appointment of Auditors and Hon. Solicitors.

It was unanimously agreed that Messrs. Reeves, Gothard and Farries be re-appointed Auditors, and that Messrs. Holme, Godden & Co. be re-appointed Hon. Solicitors for the ensuing year.

Amendment to the Constitution.

Bye-law VI—Fees. It was agreed that an addition be made numbered Item 3, and Items 3 and 4 as now printed, to be reprinted 4 and 5 respectively, the new item to read:—

“All affiliated associations shall be required to make a return of membership to the National Council of Nurses on the cards provided and shall make an annual return not later than September 1st each year, of the names of new members and the names of those ceasing to be members, and of changes of name.”

Votes of Thanks.

A vote of thanks was proposed to the Chairman for conducting the meeting, and also to the Matron and Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital for their generous hospitality.

The meeting having terminated, those present enjoyed meeting old friends in this ancient and dignified Hall, and animated groups of delegates chatted while delightful refreshment was handed round by members of the hospital staff.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)