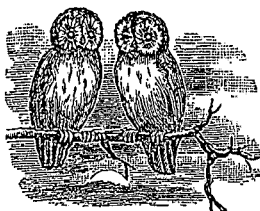


Matrons in Council.



MADAM,—May I ask you for space to add a few words to the discussion for which you have kindly granted space in the NURSING RECORD, *re* the admission of Associates to the Matrons' Council? First of all, What is a Matron? and What is a Council? The first word is derived from *mater*, the Latin for mother; and the second from *consilium*, which, literally translated, means a "sitting together" for the purpose of discussion or deliberation. From the earliest times Councils have been held amongst all nations in order to determine great affairs of State or matters of less importance affecting large bodies of people, and to these Councils there have always been summoned all whose opinions were valuable, or who were chiefly interested in the matter which had to be discussed. Now, it appears to me, and I imagine that this is the light in which Miss Isla Stewart views the formation of the Society, that the influence of the Council is to be *motherly*, not *disciplinary*, and that, therefore, it will be of use, and fill a want, just in so far as it exercises these kindly and helpful influences, and that it will exceed its work if it develops into, or attempts to exercise, a *controlling* influence. The whole body politic of Nurses now possesses a very efficient organisation incorporated by Royal Charter—the Royal British Nurses' Association—composed of medical men and nurses, and so endowed with disciplinary powers, that, at present, no further control is needed; but we do need, and must have, more sympathy and more help from the leaders of our profession, so that they may use their influence in numerous directions for the more efficient education of Nurses, and for their protection from conditions of life and work which are heart-rending and disgraceful. Who is to be the trained Nurse's example? to whom is she to look for redress of wrong, if not to the Matron? If she may not meet her superior in council, how is she to bring before her, wrongs in need of redress. It is useless for the desire for progress and reform to be met by the answer—Behold, what has been done! The modern Nurse has read only of past atrocities; she has *suffered* from those in existence; she sees no reason why reform should remain stationary; glancing *back* with gratification, many horrors are cast behind—semi-starvation, *piggery*, impossible performance of duty to the sick, lives sacrificed, and the resulting maddening remorse, amongst the number. With these, thank God, the modern Nurse has little to do; but still, who shall say that enough has been done. We Nurses have learnt our lesson. We know that, in the majority of cases, it is our Matrons who have fought and worked—and some have died—for the privileges which we Nurses of to-day enjoy; that what they have accomplished single-handed in the past is nothing to what they can do *together* in the future, and we want this Council to be the *Mothers'* Council—knowing that love is the great resistless power in nature.—Yours,

"SISTER HELENA."

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR



THE QUEEN has graciously intimated to Dr. THORNE THORNE, C.B., the principal medical officer of the Local Government Board, her appreciation of the services rendered by the Medical Department of the Board in taking active measures for preventing the entrance of cholera into this country.

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MISS M. M. McFARLANE has been appointed Matron of the Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow. She was trained at Brownlow Hill Infirmary, Liverpool, and worked for two years as Head Surgical Nurse at the Infirmary at Burton-on-Trent. Miss McFARLANE was then appointed Matron of the Cottage Hospital, Burton-under-Needwood, and held for five and four years respectively the positions of Matron to the Bothwell and Woodliln Asylums; for the last four years she has been Lady Superintendent to the Barnhill Hospital, Glasgow. Miss McFARLANE enters on her duties on the 1st November.

* * *

MISS M. BOWER has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the Hahnemann Hospital and Homoeopathic Dispensaries at Liverpool. Miss BOWER was trained at the General Infirmary, Derby, and the London Hospital, Whitechapel, and gained further experience at the Gloucester Infirmary. Miss Bower was then promoted to the position of Matron of the Manchester Consumption Hospital at Bowden, where she has proved herself an able administrator.

* * *

MISS CAROLINE COOPER SMITH has been appointed Charge Nurse at the Chelsea Infirmary, where for the last three years she has held the position of Staff Nurse. Miss SMITH was trained at the Kensington Infirmary. She is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association and a Registered Nurse.

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THE Duke of CONNAUGHT has definitely promised to preside at a county meeting to be held at Guildford on October 27th, with the object of raising funds in aid of the Royal Surrey County Hospital, which was established as a memorial of the late Prince Consort.

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SIR HENRY TRUEMAN WOOD will deliver the inaugural address at the City of London College on Thursday, October 11th.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)