

The Matrons' Council.



THE Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council took place at the Matron's House, St. Bartholemew's Hospital, on the 24th ult., at 3 p.m., when the following business was transacted.

Mrs. Grey acted as Hon. Secretary in the absence

of Mrs. Lancelot Andrews (for whom warm sympathy was expressed by those present in her terrible grief).

The Executive Committee reported that arrangements had been made to hold three Sessional Conferences, the first of which, "A Uniform Curriculum of Education for Nurses," embodied in a paper to be read before the Matrons' Council on the evening of the 24th inst. by Miss Isla Stewart. "The Consideration of a Draft Bill for the Registration of Trained Nurses," now under the consideration of the Medical Associations, was suggested as the subject of conference in January next, and it was proposed to invite Mrs. Eva McLaren, the Secretary of the International Council of Women, to read a paper on "The National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland," in April, as it was proposed to form a Nursing Section in the Professional Division of the National Council.

It had been arranged to hold three post-graduate Demonstrations on Practical Nursing; the first to be held in the beginning of December, and given by Miss Bristow, Sister of Martha Ward (gynæcological), St. Bartholemew's Hospital; the second in February, by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, on "the Nursing of Operations upon the Intestinal Canal," and the third in March, by Miss Isla Stewart.

The following ladies made application for membership, and were duly elected:—Miss Heather-Bigg, Matron, Chelsea Hospital for Women; Miss M. M. Evans, Matron, St. Olave's Infirmary, Rotherhithe; Miss Annie Griffiths, Matron, Fulham Infirmary; Miss F. Le Hay Forbes, Matron, General Hospital, Tunbridge Wells; Miss A. Griffiths, Darent Schools, Dartford; Miss B. Kelly, Lady Superintendent, Dr. Steeven's Hospital, Dublin; Miss Harriet Green, late Lady Superintendent, Children's Hospital, Bradford; Miss S. Munro, Lady Superintendent, Beardon Convalescent Home, N.B.; Miss Emily Rogers, Lady Superintendent, Home for Nurses, Cambridge.

In conformity with the Bye-laws the Council then proceeded to elect the Hon. Officers and the Executive Committee, subject to their consent to act. Miss Cureton, Matron Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, was elected Vice-Chairman *vice* Miss Cassandra Beachcroft, County Hospital, Lincoln, retiring in rotation; Mrs. Lancelot Andrews was unanimously re-elected Hon. Secretary; and the following ladies were elected to fill the five vacancies on the Executive Committee:—Miss Butler, Samaritan Free Hospital; Miss Wesley, St. George's in the East Infirmary; Miss Heather-Bigg, Chelsea Hospital for Women; Miss Curtis, Parkwood, Swanley; Miss B. Kelly, Dr. Steeven's Hospital, Dublin.

A resolution was unanimously passed conferring Honorary Membership on Miss Lavinia L. Dock, late Superintendent Illinois Training School for Nurses, Chicago, a leader of nursing progress and reform in

the States, and whom the Association of American Superintendents had distinguished by requesting her to present a scheme for a National Association of American Nurses at its forthcoming Annual Meeting in February next; upon Mrs. Hunter-Robb, late Superintendent of Johns Hopkins' Training School for Nurses, at Baltimore, and the President of the Nursing Congress at Chicago, in 1893; and upon Miss Louise Darche, Superintendent of the New York Training School for Nurses, Blackwall Island, New York, whose curriculum of nursing education was one of the most complete at present in the world.

The Resolution standing in the name of Miss Hughes, Kensington Infirmary, "That a Dictionary of Nursing be compiled under the direction of the Matrons' Council" was unavoidably postponed owing to the absence of Miss Hughes, and it was resolved that the consideration of the subject be referred to the Executive Committee. An interesting discussion ensued on the Resolution proposed by Miss Antrobus, "That it is the duty of the Matron to respect the Creed of her Nurses." All the speakers were in sympathy with Miss Antrobus, who expressed the opinion that the Matron of a hospital should use her influence to afford every facility to the Nurses to attend the rites of the religious denomination to which they belonged.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Miss Rogers, Leicester Infirmary, and carried unanimously:—"That the Matrons' Council approves of the principle of preliminary education for Nurses, in the elements of anatomy, physiology, therapeutics, antiseptics and hygiene, practical nursing, dietetics and invalid cooking, domestic ward management and professional etiquette, and that they request that the Royal British Nurses' Association will take into consideration the development of the scheme."

In speaking to this resolution, Mrs. Fenwick said that in suggesting to the Royal British Nurses' Association last year the desirability of starting a course of lectures in some of the above subjects, for ladies preparing to enter training schools as Probationers, she felt that the underlying principle of the Corporation, constituting itself the educational and disciplinary body of the Nursing profession, had not been fully grasped by the Executive Committee, and it was to be regretted that through lack of energetic organization, the course of lectures had failed to be a financial success, and at the July Council Meeting a resolution was passed that they should be discontinued.

A week later she, as Editor of the NURSING RECORD, had received from the secretary of the National Health Society the following notice: "At a recent committee meeting this Society took an important step with a view to enabling ladies who are intending to enter Hospitals as Nurses, to go through the Society's special training courses in nursing, hygiene, sanitation, &c. It has been found that a great many ladies do not know what to do while waiting to attain the age of twenty-five, before which they cannot commence General Hospital Training. By removing the age qualification from the syllabus of the National Health Society's Training Course, the course has been thrown open to ladies during this waiting period in thus enabling them to go through this admirable preliminary training first, giving them thereby a very great start over others when once they begin Hospital life. In addition to this the lecturers' age has been

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