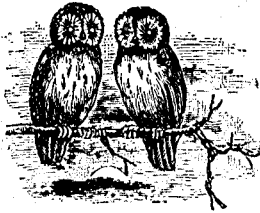


Matrons in Council.

OFFICIAL REPORT.



THE American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses held its fifth annual meeting in Toronto, on February 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th. Through the courtesy of Mr. Ross, the Minister of Education for

the Province of Ontario, the Auditorium of the Public Hall of the Education Department, in St. James's Square, was granted for the use of the Society.

The meetings were well attended, many new members being present. Two days were devoted to the regular programme, while two were given to business meetings of the Executive Council.

The session was opened by the President, Miss Snively, Lady Superintendent of the Toronto General Hospital Training School. Her address of welcome reviewed the work done by the Society, touched upon that which yet remained to be done, and included an interesting account of the early nursing work of Canada, the Training School of St. Catherine's being one of the oldest in the country.

The papers read were "Hospital Laundries," by Miss Nevins, of the Garfield Hospital, Washington. This practical and important department of hospital work was dealt with in a practical way, and statistics were given, gathered from a number of hospitals, showing the different systems in use, and comparing the general results gained by different methods.

"Practical Diet Kitchens as part of a Uniform Curriculum," by Miss Stone, of the Rhode Island Hospital, and "Hospital Diet from the Standpoint of the Hospital Superintendent," by Miss Davis, of the University of Pennsylvania Hospital. Two most interesting and instructive papers. The former showed a most encouraging increase in the number of training schools which now give systematic instruction in cooking to their pupils.

Miss Riddle, of the Boston City Hospital, read a paper entitled "How to Attain Greater Uniformity in Ward Work," a subject of interest to all superintendents who find the problem of attaining uniformity in theoretical teaching easy, compared with the difficulty of arriving at a definite minimum of practical ward work and ward teaching, which should be required of every training school. The question is a large one, involving the necessary qualifications and preparation of women who are to be head nurses, etc. It was thoroughly dealt with, and fitly seconded by the paper, "Suggestions for future Qualification for Membership in the Society of American Superintendents," read by Mrs. Robb, of Cleveland, Ohio, which outlined a plan aiming at a higher education for heads of

training schools and hospitals. Miss Richards, of the University Hospital, Philadelphia, read a paper called "The Superintendent of Nurses," discussing not only the superintendent herself, but also her position, responsibility, and authority; what they should be, and how related to the hospital authorities, while Miss Allerton, of the Homœopathic Hospital, Rochester, under the title "How far are Training Schools responsible for lack of Ethics among Nurses," took up the more intangible but none the less pressing question of that side of the graduate nurses' work which depends on individual character and personality.

The Society was most hospitably entertained during its stay in Toronto. A delightful musical evening followed by a reception, was given in the Public Hall by the trustees and officers of the General Hospital. A charming luncheon was given at the Children's Hospital, which was thrown open for inspection afterwards and which is one of the most perfectly appointed children's hospitals in the world. A dinner given by Mr. and Mrs. J. Ross Robertson at the Hunt Club was one of the pleasantest possible occasions, and an afternoon tea given by Mrs. MacSweeney brought this too short visit to Toronto to an æsthetically beautiful close. The official luncheon must not be forgotten, as it was both dainty and delicious. The President for the next year is Miss McIsaac, Superintendent of the Illinois Training School, Chicago, and the sixth annual meeting will be held in that city.

L. L. DOCK,
Secretary.

Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses.

THE Annual Meeting of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses was held at 28, Finsbury Pavement, E.C., on the 17th inst.

The chairman, in alluding to the loss sustained by the fund in the death of its late chairman, Mr. Walter H. Barnes, expressed the satisfaction of the Council in being able to announce that Mr. Everard A. Hambro had accepted the vacant position. Seven hundred and fourteen new policies have been issued, a figure above the average, but we are not informed how many policy holders have withdrawn. The total invested funds now amount to over £372,000, and there is a balance of over £1000 to the credit of the Sick Pay branch.

We should like, while speaking on this subject, to draw the attention of the committee to the fact that considerable dissatisfaction is expressed by many members owing to the deduction of five per cent. being made for the working expenses of the fund. Looking at this from a business point of view we do not of course expect that such an undertaking shall be conducted without expense, but we think it would be well if the nurses who join the Pension Fund were informed of the

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