

Hospital, Brighton; Miss Shirley, Nurses' Institute, Stoke-on-Trent; and Miss Lucy Smith, Marland Fever Hospital, Rochdale; Miss Beachcroft, Matron Lincoln County Hospital; Mrs. Alfred Booth, President of the National Union of Women Workers, and Dr. Lilius Hamilton.

The time before the Conference passed very pleasantly. Old friends renewed acquaintance, and much interest and enthusiasm prevailed as to the objects of the Conference.

Amongst those present also were Mrs. Boulnois, representing the National Union of Women Workers; Miss Theresa Wilson, Hon. Secretary, International Council of Women; the Lady Calthorpe; Mrs. Roberts Austen; Mr. Walshe, of the Male Nurses' Temperance Co-operation, and others.

The Medical Society's room is a most pleasant one for a meeting of this kind, and, with the platform gay with flowers, looked its best. The opening remarks of the Chairman were listened to with the greatest interest, as she pointed out how this was almost the first occasion on which Matrons had met together to discuss some of the problems which the progress of the nursing profession make important and prominent, and that although there is no profession in which unity and intercourse amongst its members are more needed, yet the members stand as rocks that have been rent asunder. There could be no two opinions of the utility and helpfulness of such a meeting, providing as it did an opportunity for the exchange of ideas on subjects of vital importance and common interest.

The morning session then opened with the reading of Miss Mollett's paper, which was followed by a very full discussion.

Appointments.

MATRONS.

MISS L. A. ROBERTS has been appointed Matron of the Hospital, Llanelly, South Wales. Miss Roberts was trained at the Hope Infirmary, Manchester, and subsequently acted as nurse at the Bishop Stortford Hospital, and at the Northern Counties Hospital, Manchester. She at present holds the appointment of Charge Nurse at the Craighleith Hospital, Edinburgh.

MISS ANNIE SCOTT has been appointed Matron of the Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Hospital, Chesterfield. Miss Scott was trained at University College Hospital, and was for seven years on its staff. Miss Scott has a large and varied experience of nursing—as she was on the staff of the Registered Nurses' Society for some time—has also worked for three years in District Nursing—and has since August last held the post of Night-Superintendent at St John's Infirmary, Hampstead. Miss Scott is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and a Registered Nurse.

The Compulsory Registration of Midwives.

THE Annual Meeting of the Association for promoting the Compulsory Registration of Midwives, took place last week at 3, Grosvenor Place. The Lady Balfour of Burleigh presided. The Association seemed to take its defeat in the House of Commons, and the contempt with which its deputation was received by the Duke of Devonshire with equanimity, and to be fairly well satisfied with its year's work. After a few introductory remarks from Lady Balfour, the report was read by the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Rickman. Its adoption was moved by Mr. Heywood Johnstone, seconded by Dr. Annie McCall, and supported by Dr. Cullingworth, but we rather think that the meeting, though an inadvertence, no doubt, separated without formally adopting it. The report stated that the Society had in the past year communicated with between 150 and 200 Members of Parliament, with the result that an excellent position for Mr. Balfour's Bill was obtained by ballot. The chances of future legislation were, no doubt, increased enormously. Correspondence had been entered into with the Coroners of this country, with the result that out of 240 coroners 153 expressed themselves as strongly in favour of some legislation, 15 were opposed to it, and the rest were either neutral, or had not considered the matter sufficiently to give an opinion.

Two hundred and eighty petitions in favour of some parliamentary measure were presented at one time by Mr. Heywood Johnstone, and to these 14,000 signatures were appended. A deputation on the subject was received by the President of the Privy Council, consisting of a most representative Committee. Surely such a deputation could hardly be told, as they were told by the Duke of Devonshire that there was no wide spread feeling in favour of a Bill. The deputation was in itself the most eloquent contradiction to such a statement. The report of the General Medical Council on the subject of the Bill was on the whole very encouraging. One point suggested by this body the Association was not prepared to support, the prohibition except for gain of all practice of midwifery except by licensed midwives. One outcome of the deputation to the Duke of Devonshire had been that a Conference had been arranged between the Parliamentary Bills' Committee of the General Medical Council, the Midwives' Institute, and the Association for the Compulsory Registration of Midwives.

Mr. Heywood Johnstone said that any one hoping to get a Bill through Parliament as a private member's Bill, must be prepared, in these days, to possess his soul in patience. Enthusiasm was a very useful quality, but the power to stay over the course was even more useful. It was a matter for congratulation that the Bill had passed the stage of indifference, and was evoking hostility. There were three stages in the passing of every measure. First indifference, then hostility more or less bitter and prolonged, then success. With regard to the criticisms of the press, the *Lancet* had always been conspicuously fair in admitting arguments on both sides, but as regards the leading newspaper in the kingdom, he thought they had reason to complain. On the very day of the deputation to the Duke of Devonshire a leading article, unfavourable to the Bill appeared in the *Times*, and the Saturday before, a letter on the same subject from a

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