

The Matrons' Council.



THE Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council was held at the Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, on Thursday, October 13th, at 4 p.m.; Miss Isla Stewart in the Chair. Miss Margaret Breay,

Hon. Secretary, read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were confirmed; also letters from several members who regretted inability to attend.

ANNUAL REPORT.

SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR, OCTOBER, 1897—98.

There are at present 64 members of the Society, and during the past year nine applications for membership have been passed by the Executive Committee and one by the Council. The remaining eight applications for membership will be placed before this meeting of the Council, making in all eighteen applications in the year.

Two members have resigned, and one has died during the past year.

Miss Hopkins, Matron of the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, resigned her position as Vice-Chairman, on account of inability to attend the meetings.

Miss Gertrude Knight, Matron of the General Hospital, Nottingham, was nominated and accepted the seat thus vacated.

The most important events in the history of the Council, this year, have been:—

(1) Its affiliation with the National Union of Women Workers, which acts as the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, and which thus connects the Matrons' Council with the International Council of Women.

Early in the year the following resolution was passed and sent to the Secretary of the National Union of Women Workers: "That the Matrons' Council begs to lay before the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland the advisability of forming a Nursing Sub-Committee." In accordance with this suggestion, the National Union summoned a Conference of Nursing experts to consider the question. A considerable majority—15 to 5—voted in favour of the sub-committee being formed, but as there was some divergence of opinion on the subject, it was afterwards resolved by the Executive Committee of the National Union of Women Workers to defer the formation of the sub-committee for at least one year.

(2) The Matrons' Council arranged that a two days' Nursing Conference should be held in the Medical Society's Rooms, London, on June 15th

and 16th. The success of the Conference was most encouraging, and it is hoped that it may henceforth be an annual occurrence.

Twenty-five members of the Council—the majority of these being country members, who had come long distances, attended the meetings, together with many Sisters and nurses, and members of the general public interested in nursing the sick. The papers read have all appeared in full in the *NURSING RECORD*, and are also being brought to the notice of American nurses in the *Trained Nurse*; the general press also widely commented upon the papers and discussions, and many persons present expressed their great enjoyment of the Conference.

The Resolutions passed at the Conference dealt with various questions of interest to the Nursing Profession.

(1) "That this meeting suggests that the Matrons' Council should take steps to draw the attention of the Red Cross Society to the advisability of organizing a Corps of Nurses for active service in foreign wars." The answer from the Red Cross Society is before the meeting to-day.

(2) "That the best method of organizing a National Association of Trained Nurses, on representative lines, be referred to the Executive Committee of the Matrons' Council, so that due consideration should be given to so important a question." The Executive Committee will consider this matter during the coming winter.

(3) "That a cordial invitation be extended by the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland to the Honorary Members of the Society to attend the Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council of Women, to be held in London, in the summer of 1899, and that hospitality be offered to these ladies for the Conference Week." The answers received are before the meeting to-day.

At a Meeting of the Executive Committee, held on May 26th, the following resolution was passed unanimously, and was forwarded to Miss Teresa Wilson, Secretary of the International Council of Women: "That the Matrons' Council consider it desirable that the important question of trained nursing for the sick of all classes should form one of the subjects for discussion at the forthcoming Congress of the International Council of Women." Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who subsequently took part in the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Council, pleaded for a Nursing Section, and time is to be given for an International Nursing Conference.

Notice of Mrs. Fenwick's Report is on the Agenda to-day.

With regard to the objects for which the Society was formed, it may reasonably be considered that it has made some progress in attaining the first (to enable the members to take counsel together upon matters affecting their profession), and the

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