

THE RESOLUTION.

"That in the opinion of this Council the system of nursing the sick in military hospitals is unsatisfactory and in need of re-organisation. The Matrons' Council therefore petition the Secretary of State for War to receive members of that body as a Deputation so that they may be enabled to lay before him their views on the necessary reforms in the Nursing Department of this Service."

THE REPLY FROM LORD LANSDOWNE.

The reply received from the Secretary of State for War was as follows:—

War Office,
London, S.W.
6th March, 1900.

MADAM,—I have the honour, by desire of the Secretary of State for War, to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 22nd ult., enquiring if he would be willing to receive a deputation from the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland in reference to their views in relation to the Army Nursing Service, and to express Lord Lansdowne's regret that the present pressure of public affairs prevents him from receiving the deputation. Should, however, the Council desire to lay before the Secretary of State for War the points to which they propose to draw his attention, such representation, if submitted in writing, shall receive careful consideration.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant,
E. FLEETWOOD WILSON.

After some discussion, in which the hope was expressed that, in the near future, when the necessary reorganization of the Army Nursing Service must take place, a Deputation of the Matrons' Council might be afforded an opportunity of waiting upon the Secretary of State for War, it was decided that a reply should be sent to his letter to the effect that the Matrons' Council regretted that they did not see their way at present to furnish a Report in writing, and the Hon. Secretary was directed to communicate this decision to the Secretary of State for War.

THE MIDWIFE QUESTION.

The Hon. Secretary also reported that she had forwarded the following Resolution, proposed and seconded at the last meeting by trained nurses, who were also certificated midwives, to the Secretary of the London Obstetrical Society.

"The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, an Association of Superintendents of Trained Nurses, while recognising the work done in the past by the Council of the London Obstetrical Society in raising the standard of midwifery education, desires to express its strong conviction that a three months' training is inadequate to prepare midwifery pupils for the responsible practical work which devolves upon them after obtaining the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society. It, moreover, considers that in the education of nurses a general education should always precede a special one, and asks the Council of the Obstetrical Society to henceforth require of candidates for its examination either the certificate of a general nurse

training school, or evidence that they are *bonâ fide* pupils of such a school. The Matrons' Council further considers that the recognition and certification of specialists is calculated to injure professionally thoroughly trained nurses."

She had received an acknowledgement of its receipt from the Secretary of the Obstetrical Society, who stated that he would lay it before the Council at its next meeting.

It was moved from the Chair and carried, that the Report be adopted and placed upon the minutes.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Applications for membership were received from Miss Bristow, Lady Superintendent of Gordon House; Miss E. J. West, Matron of the Grove Hospital, Tooting; Miss A. G. Cresswell, Lady Superintendent of the General Infirmary, Chester; Miss A. K. Gough, Matron, The Infirmary, Dawlish; Miss Florence Worley, Matron of the Boscombe Hospital, Bournemouth; Miss Spittal, Matron of the Children's Hospital, Nottingham; Miss Berta Greenlaw, Matron of the Allt-yr-yn Hospital, Newport.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The arrangements for the Annual Conference were then discussed, and the programme drawn up. It was also suggested that the members should lunch together on Friday, July 6th. The Programme for the Conference as at present arranged is as follows:—

Annual Conference of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

At the Medical Societies' Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W.

Miss Isla Stewart, President, in the Chair.

THURSDAY, JULY 5th.

3—6 p.m.

Presidential Address.

A Poor Law Nursing Service.

Miss E. Julian, Matron of the Infirmary, Croydon, Member of the Matrons' Council.

The Necessity for a Nursing Department in all Governmental Offices dealing with the Nursing of the Sick.

Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, late Lady Superintendent, Gordon House Home Hospital, Member of the Matrons' Council, Gold Medallist of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Hon. Treasurer of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses.

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