

THE BUSINESS MEETING.

On the morning of Friday, May 30th, the Council Meeting proper took place at Morley Hall, George Street, Hanover Square, at 11 a.m. In the unavoidable absence of the President, the chair was taken by Miss Mollett, vice-chairman. There was a good attendance of members.

The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read, and confirmed. The Hon. Secretary then read the following Report:—

REPORT.

Since the last meeting of the Matrons' Council the Executive Committee has met once. It then considered, in accordance with the desire of the Council, the conditions under which branches shall be affiliated to the Council, and suggests (1) That the principal officer of each branch shall be a Vice-President, appointed by the Matrons' Council, who shall act as chairman, and shall form her own committee; (2) That some percentage of the subscriptions received by the branches should be remitted to the Matrons' Council, and that the branches be asked to suggest what they consider a fair proportion; (3) That the branches accept the objects and bye-laws of the Council, such alterations as they find it expedient to make in the bye-laws to be submitted to the Matrons' Council for its consideration before adoption; (4) That the branches accept their own members and notify their names to the Central Council. The committee also sanctioned the removal from the roll of the names of members who had ceased to communicate with the Council. The arrangements for the Conference and for to-day's meetings were also made.

The work done by the Registration Sub-Committee is embodied in a Report which will be presented later.

The thanks of the Matrons' Council are due to Mr. Heywood Johnstone, M.P., who courteously forwarded for its use a copy of the Midwives' Bill, now before Parliament, on the day of its publication. He at the same time drew attention to the fact that "a system of notification has been substituted for annual licensing which it is hoped will prove less troublesome to the midwife, and equally efficacious in securing local supervision."

The Departmental Committee on the Nursing of the Sick Poor in Workhouses, appointed by the President of the Local Government Board, having intimated its willingness to receive evidence on behalf of the Matrons' Council, Mrs. Wates, late Matron of the Lewisham Infirmary, kindly consented to represent the Council. The chief points emphasized in her memorandum were that workhouse nursing is unpopular because the nurses have no hope of promotion, and in many instances their salaries are small and their food and accommodation poor. Further, they work under a divided authority, which makes the enforcement of necessary discipline impossible. These difficulties can only be met by the appointment of Matrons who are trained nurses.

The Registrar of the General Medical Council has forwarded for the information of the Matrons' Council a copy of the Minutes of the Executive Committee embodying the Resolutions forwarded to that body by the Matrons' Council.

We have to record with regret the death of Miss Shirley, Lady Superintendent of the Staffordshire

Nurses' Institute, Stoke-on-Trent, one of the original members of the Council, and up to the day of her death in keen sympathy with its work. A wreath was sent on behalf of the Council.

The adoption of the Report was moved by Miss Ross, seconded by Miss Macvitie, and carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Hon. Secretary reported a letter from Miss M. D. Farquharson, Hon. Member of the Council, and formerly Matron of the Melbourne Hospital, notifying the Council of her appointment as Matron of the General Hospital, Bendigo, Victoria. Also a letter from Miss Maud Banfield, Philadelphia, Hon. Secretary to the Committee convening the International Nurses' Congress, acknowledging "the kind and appreciative resolution of the Matrons' Council," and stating that she would have pleasure in transmitting it to the members of the Committee of the International Congress.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

The following applications for membership of the Council were then considered and accepted, on the proposition of Miss Barling, seconded by Miss Clara Lee:—

Miss Jessie A. Meldrum, Matron of the Eston Hospital, Middlesborough.

Miss Florence Frost, Matron, St. Luke's Hospital, Halifax.

Miss J. A. Smith, Matron, the Infirmary, Kingston-on-Thames.

Miss Winifred Plum, Matron, the Victoria Hospital, Folkestone.

Miss Maude A. Buckingham, Matron, the Hospital, Rotherham.

Miss Alice Clark, Matron, the Infirmary, Southport.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

The next business on the Agenda was to receive a Report from the Registration Sub-Committee. It was as follows:—

The Registration Sub-Committee have, since the January Council meeting, been occupied with the details of the preliminary organisation of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, having been deputed to this duty by the Council.

At a meeting held on February 21st, it was decided to invite applications for membership of such a society from trained nurses of three years' experience and good repute. The subscription was fixed at half-a-crown, and it was arranged that local secretaries should be appointed for counties and large towns, and that Miss Louisa Stevenson, of Edinburgh, should be invited to be the first President of the Society. It was further agreed that the committee of the Society should not be formed until at least 100 nurses had applied for membership, that financial support should be invited from the public, that a statement of Registration should be issued, the formation of the Society be announced in the NURSING RECORD, and forms of application circulated. Within a week of the

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