

off-duty time! She expressed her thanks to the 20 medical men for their lectures and assured Dame Elizabeth that she need have no anxiety as to the maintenance of the high standard of nursing at the West London Hospital.

The Matron was the last speaker. She expressed her thanks to the medical and nursing staff. She had no less than five nationalities working in harmony in this Hospital which would celebrate its centenary next year.

Her announcement that Sister Wilmot intended to continue to be Treasurer of the Nurses' League was welcomed with enthusiasm. She also drew our attention to the All England Trophies for Speech-making on view. West London had brought them back to London for the first time since 1941 when it was at St. George's Hospital.

The party then adjourned to the Nurses' Home for an excellent tea and a visit to the wards.

D. B.

Infectious Hospitals Matrons' and Nurses' Association Annual General Meeting.

MISS A. A. WARD, PRESIDENT, was in the Chair and Miss M. W. Harris, S.R.N., R.F.N., S.C.M., Hon Secretary, presented the following Report:—

The Honorary Secretary's Report, July, 1955.

Since the Annual General Meeting in July last year meetings of the Association have been held at Coppetts Wood Hospital, London, N.10, Monsall Hospital, Manchester, Clayponds Hospital, W.5, Talgarth Mansions, W.14, and Haymeads Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

At the meeting on September 4th Miss Gregory kindly consented to act as Honorary Secretary until I had had time to settle in my new hospital, but Miss Ward and Miss Bryson carried on owing to Miss Gregory's illness.

The Executive was elected, composed of Miss Phillips, Miss Harris, Miss Ramsey, Miss Johnson, Miss West, Miss King and Miss Cook.

The President, Miss Ward, the Vice-president, Miss Withers and Miss Bryson the Honorary Treasurer, reported on their attendances at the Royal Garden Party.

The design and cost of the badge of the Association was discussed and agreed upon.

The North Western Branch of the Association was formed on October 16th, 1954, when nurses from that area met at Monsall Hospital. Miss Ward as President outlined the growth of the Association and its aims—its successful work, especially during the past year on behalf of the Fever Register.

Miss Phillips, Matron of Monsall Hospital, then proposed the founding of the new branch, the proposal being seconded by Miss Holland, Matron of Fazackerley Hospital, Liverpool. The proposal was carried unanimously. Miss Phillips was appointed Chairman.

Miss Caldwell, Matron of Cherry Tree Hospital, Stockport (with Miss Phillips), was elected Joint Honorary Secretary and Treasurer. It was agreed that annual subscriptions be forwarded to Headquarters and that the Branch should be responsible for its own meetings and finance, as the contributions from the main funds to the National Council of Nurses were considerable.

On November 27th the Executive Committee met at Clayponds Hospital for the last time in Miss Gregory's matronship. Many good wishes were tendered to Miss Gregory for a long and happy retirement.

There was discussion on the position of the S.E.A.N., in the nursing world and Miss Stewart Bryson announced the receipt of a letter from the Registrar of the General Nursing Council, in which our Association was advised to apply for a member to be nominated for a Region. At the February meeting held by kind invitation of Miss Sharpe in her home,

Miss Ward agreed to stand for election as a member of the General Nursing Council North West Metropolitan Area.

It was agreed that we should write again to the Minister of Health to ask for an amendment of the 1949 Nurses Act for an extra appointment to be allowed for a representative for infectious diseases, comparable to those already enjoyed by sick children's nurses and mental nurses. Miss Bryson then stated that the membership of the Association was now 150. This letter was sent on February 3rd, 1955, and acknowledged on the 8th.

The last meeting of the year was held at Haymeads Hospital, Bishop's Stortford, and was poorly attended, no doubt owing to the position of the hospital.

Miss Ward agreed to attend the meeting in May of the National Council of Nurses as the representative of the Association.

I would like to place on record the splendid work done for the Association by our President Miss Ward, and also by Miss Bryson and Miss Gregory, much valuable time has been given and unflagging interest shown, for which we are most grateful.

The Hon. Treasurer gave an encouraging Financial Report; some 50 new members having joined during the year.

The meeting expressed much satisfaction and thanks to Miss Harris for so ably taking up the secretaryship of the Association.

The meeting then terminated.

The General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

A MEETING OF THE General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the offices of the Council, 23 Portland Place, London, W.1, on July 22nd.

Miss D. M. Smith, Chairman, presided.

Report of Returning Officer on Election of Council, 1955.

Sir John Dain presented his Report on the election of direct representatives to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

We enumerate a few points which may be of interest to our readers.

The growth of the electorate has been as follows:—

	1944	1950	1955
General	99,865	127,424	171,096
Mental	5,041	12,492	20,817
Sick Children ..	3,993	5,335	7,421

It must be noted that no fewer than 15,290 ballot papers were returned undelivered by the Post Office by reason of an obsolete address. Largely responsible for this, of course, is that no retention fee now being paid yearly, nurses do not notify the Council of any change of address.

When the yearly retention fee was paid, yearly contact between Council and nurse took place.

In this election 1,603 ballot papers were invalidated by failure to sign the certificate on the identification envelope.

The total number of votes cast in all areas by the general electors was 487,286; and shows that a very large proportion of voters must have used all their 14 votes.

Thanks were expressed to Sir John Dain, and it was agreed that the ballot papers be now destroyed.

Loss to the Council.

It was reported that the Council will lose the services this year of Miss L. G. Duff Grant and Miss D. A. Lane who did not put up at the election. Both ladies have rendered signal service to the General Nursing Council.

The term of office of the Chairman, Miss D. M. Smith, has expired; and many warm tributes were paid to her for

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)