

the present Matrons of Great Britain and her dependencies ; it should neither stretch back too far into the past, nor "shingle out" too far into the fog of the future.

In *my* "mind's eye" I also see many, many Nurses who are not, and never intend to be, Matrons, who would confer distinction on any Meeting, any Council, or any Assembly. I am with Miss Kenealy there ; but I reiterate my parrot-like cry—there may be female Bayards, but they are not Matrons, and this is a Matrons' Council.

The phrase "Divine Right of Matrons" strikes me as being a bombastical one to use in connection with a desire to found a Matrons' Council that shall not be open to the whole Nursing world. I do not see the application.

I wrote modestly for some others who think as I do. I find Miss Kenealy drops readily into the editorial "we" and answers apparently for the whole Nursing profession of which I also am a member, and claims to express views which I now emphatically assert are held by many.

Let a Republican Council be founded by those who desire one by all means, but do not let it masquerade under a false and misleading name.—Yours truly,

M. MOLLETT,
Matron.

*Royal South Hants Infirmary,
Southampton.*

MADAM,—Not having been able to accept Miss Stewart's invitation to be present at the inaugural meeting of the Matrons' Council, and not having, therefore, had the opportunity of hearing the arguments concerning its constitution, I am very pleased to read in the current issue of the NURSING RECORD that the By-Laws, as they stand, are only suggested, and that they will be submitted to the first meeting of members, at which I hope to be present in November.

I must own that I was, at first, strongly adverse to the admission to the Society of any persons who were not experienced Matrons, and should strongly sympathise with Miss Mollett's views were they entirely correct ; but I gather from Miss Stewart's kind letter, and the editorial annotation, that the Associates will not occupy the official position she anticipates, and, I think, justly resents ; and, as all persons eligible as Associates are to be thoroughly qualified Nurses of three years' education and experience, occupying very responsible positions in their profession, I do not think she need fear that their quantity will be overwhelming. I am, therefore, inclined, upon consideration, to agree with Miss Stewart that we Matrons must, above all things, guard ourselves against a too narrow and exclusive policy in dealing with a *national* question—the future education of Nurses. Her colleagues owe Miss Mollett so much for the active part she took in the past in claiming autonomy for Nurses, that it is to be hoped they will again benefit by her co-operation on the Matrons' Council. I am quite in sympathy with her suggestion concerning honorary associates, and many names suggest themselves to me—for instance, that of Miss Louisa Twining, the great living pioneer of Workhouse Infirmary reform, and Clara Barton, the "Nightingale" of America.—I am, etc.,

LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



CONSIDERABLE interest is felt in the Hospital world in connection with the visit of the Duke and Duchess of YORK to Birmingham to-day, to lay the Foundation Stone of the New General Hospital, in that very progressive city. The site of the new building, says the *Times*, is a central but fairly open one in the heart of the gunmakers' quarter, and in close proximity to the Law Courts, the County Court, and the new thoroughfare known as Corporation Street. It comprises nearly four acres, has cost about £50,000, has frontages to St. Mary's Square, on the one side, and Steelhouse Lane on the other, of nearly 500 feet each, and is some 300 feet in depth. The ground was previously covered with delapidated buildings, chiefly gun factories and warehouses.

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It did not strictly belong to old Birmingham, and the excavations rendered necessary for the foundations of the Hospital have yielded no archæological treasures. The only discovery was a firm bed of virgin sand, perfectly dry and sanitary in every respect. The designs selected, as the result of an open competition, are by Mr. WILLIAM HENMAN, and present, externally, a very imposing architectural pile of red brick and terra cotta, in modern Gothic style of the neighbouring Law Courts. The accommodation is for 350 beds. The sky line is broken by various turrets, and by two large water towers, which will gratefully relieve the heaviness and uniformity of the block. The architect has chosen Steelhouse Lane as his principal front, and has disposed his blocks of pavilions in the form of wings projecting at right angles from a corridor building of three stories running parallel to the frontage. Three projections come forward towards Steelhouse Lane. The outer of these wings reaches almost to the street, but the central one projects rather less than half-way, thus leaving a spacious quadrangle within the entrance gates. A low covered way, with an open arcade, connects the centre wing with the two sides, and gives a continuity of effect which would otherwise be wanting.

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The centre wing is the administrative block, which is carried back beyond the transverse corridor nearly to St. Mary's Square. That on the right is devoted to out-patient work on the ground

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