

work, often meet with little technical difficulties, and it would be of great assistance to them if they could seek for advice from experienced women. Many little mistakes might be prevented could they, in confidence, talk over their difficulties with Matrons of larger experience. But it must be distinctly understood that this must be in technical matters only, and that we *in no way* propose to interfere in the management of the Hospital, or intervene between the authorities—only to offer advice when it is sought for by a fellow Matron, and to have no ill-feeling if the advice is not taken.

The question of woman's work is taking up a good deal of attention just now, and Nursing stands, or should stand, almost first among the occupations open to women. It combines the qualities which are approved both by the progressive and the moderate parties. The former sees in it a way to freedom and independence, the latter finds in it a sweet womanly work. Of late years, the rank and file of the profession has been recruited from the well-educated intelligent middle class; it is, therefore, only our exclusiveness which has hitherto hindered us from taking the lead in the women's movement. In order, however, that Nursing and Nurses may take their place in this, we have much to learn. We must discuss questions of general, as well as of professional, interest, in order to be able to form accurate and adequate opinions, and we must familiarize ourselves with the method of procedure at meetings and the conduct of business.

This society must, I think, be formed chiefly of past and present Matrons, but we might admit as Associates those from whom our future Matrons are likely to be chosen. In this way our future colleagues will profit not only from our present wisdom, but from that enormous amount we intend to accumulate!

I must not keep you longer as we have a large amount of business to do, and I know that some of the Matrons whose Hospitals are not in London, but who have been good enough to come to-night, have to leave us very soon. I must, however, again remind you that Union is Strength, that combined and of one mind we could do a great work; but that dispersed and isolated we can do comparatively little. "Each for all, and all for each," is the beautiful motto you see in some advanced associations. Let us have it for our own, and act on it with all our hearts and minds.

Considerable discussion followed, after which Miss Antrobus proposed, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick seconded, and it was unanimously agreed "That it is desirable to form a Society of Matrons, and that its name shall be "The Matrons' Council."

The meeting then proceeded to pass Bye-laws defining the constitution, and after considerable dis-

ussion upon each, the following were unanimously agreed to; the first being put from the Chair as arising from the initial resolution:—

BYE-LAWS.

1. The Name of the Society shall be "THE MATRONS' COUNCIL."
 2. The Objects of the Society shall be:—
 - (a) To enable Hospital Matrons to take counsel together upon matters affecting their profession. (Proposed by Miss Violet Clarke, seconded by Miss Hughes.)
 - (b) To bring about a uniform system of Education, Examination and Certification for Nurses in British Hospitals. (Proposed by Miss Stewart, seconded by Miss Dannatt.)
 - (c) To form an Advisory Committee, to which members can apply for counsel in cases of professional difficulty. (Proposed by Miss Mollett, seconded by Miss Elma Smith.)
 - (d) To hold Meetings to discuss subjects of professional, and also of general, interest. (Proposed by Miss Annesley Kenealy, seconded by Miss Hopkins.)
 - (e) To encourage Hospital Matrons to understand the methods of procedure at Meetings. (Proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, seconded by Miss Smedley.)
 3. The Society shall be formed of Members and Associates. Those who are or have been Matrons of Hospitals and Superintendents of Nursing Institutions who are trained Nurses, shall be eligible for membership. Those who are or have been Night Superintendents, Ward Sisters or Charge Nurses of Hospitals, and who are thoroughly trained, shall be eligible as Associates. (Proposed by Miss Elma Smith, seconded by Miss Butler.)
 4. The Annual Subscription for Members shall be five shillings; and for Associates, two shillings and sixpence. All subscriptions shall be payable on October 1st of each year. (Proposed by Miss Butler, seconded by Miss Ridley.)
 5. Applications for Membership or Associateship shall be made upon forms provided for that purpose; and the election shall be determined by vote at a Meeting of the Executive Committee. (Proposed by Miss Ross, seconded by Mrs. Okell.)
 6. The Honorary Officers of the Council shall be a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen, and an Honorary Secretary, who shall also act as Treasurer. The Honorary Secretary may be an Associate. The Honorary Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of Members in each year. (Proposed by Miss Annesley Kenealy, seconded by Miss H. Kenealy.)
 7. The Annual Meeting shall elect twenty-one Members, including the Honorary Officers, to form an Executive Committee, which shall carry on the business of the Society, and shall organise such Meetings and Congresses, as it may be decided to hold. One third of the elected Members shall retire annually by rotation. (Proposed by Miss Clarke, seconded by Miss Ridley.)
 8. The Executive Committee shall meet once in each month, or as often as may be necessary, at such times and places as may be decided upon, to elect Members and Associates, and do such other business as may be necessary. (Proposed by Miss Ross, seconded by Mrs. Fenwick.)
 9. No new bye-law may be made, nor may any standing bye-law be amended or rescinded, except at a general Meeting of Members, nor unless full notice of such proposed alteration, addition or omission shall have been given to every Member upon the notice convening the said Meeting. (Proposed by Miss Dannatt, seconded by Miss H. Kenealy.)
- Miss Isla Stewart then asked for an expression of opinion as to what time would be considered most generally convenient to hold the meetings. Three o'clock in the afternoon seemed to meet with general favour, as it would

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